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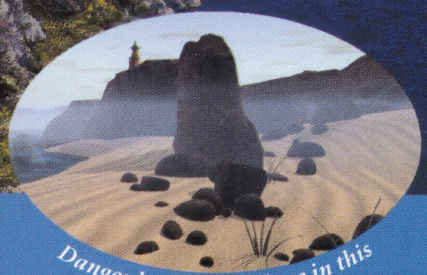

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Electric Paper !!!!

Whereas typing in URLs sucks, whereas we want to make your life that much easier, whereas we want you to visit our Web site, by executive decree all the URLs mentioned in this month's issue (except the WebGuide) can be found at: http://www.underground-online.com

volume 01

Departments

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8. Contributors: Revealing insight into the psyches of this month's co-conspirators.

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nside the underground

August 1996
issue 09
cover art:Rich Borge/Gravity Workshop

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42. •**SUPER SOUNDS OF THE INTERNET**
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44. •**FALSE POSITIVES AND FORGED IDENTITIES**
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50. •**LAW AND DISORDER** BY OGDEN FORBES
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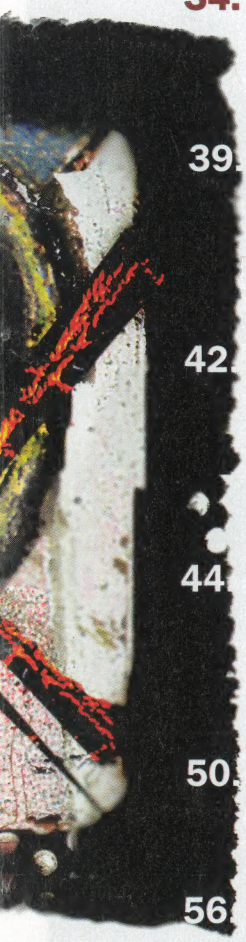
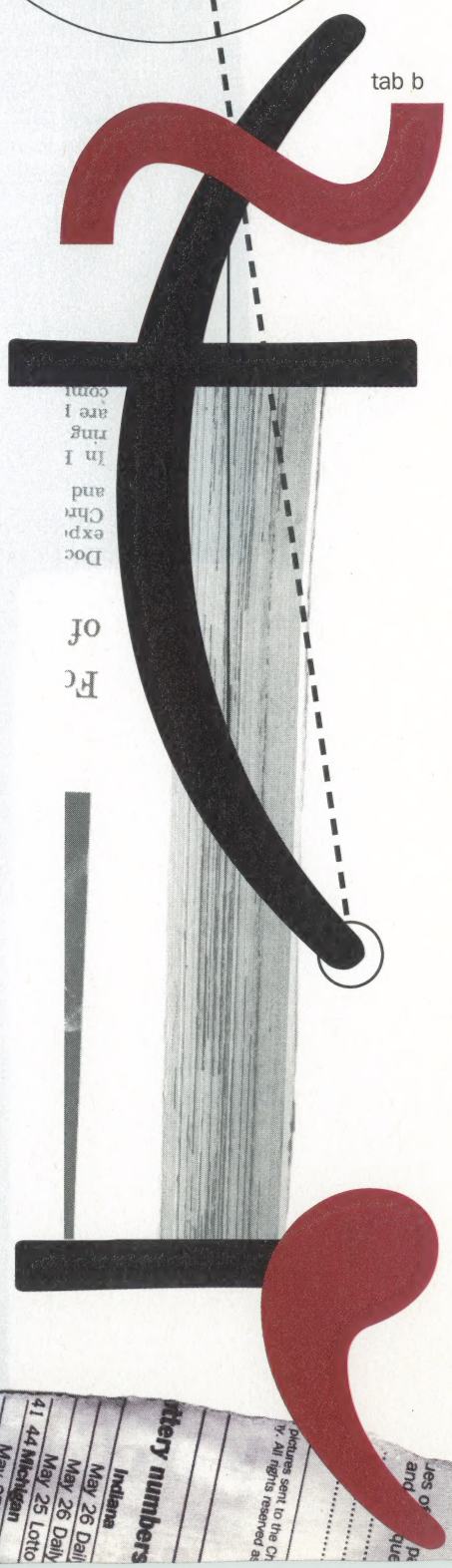
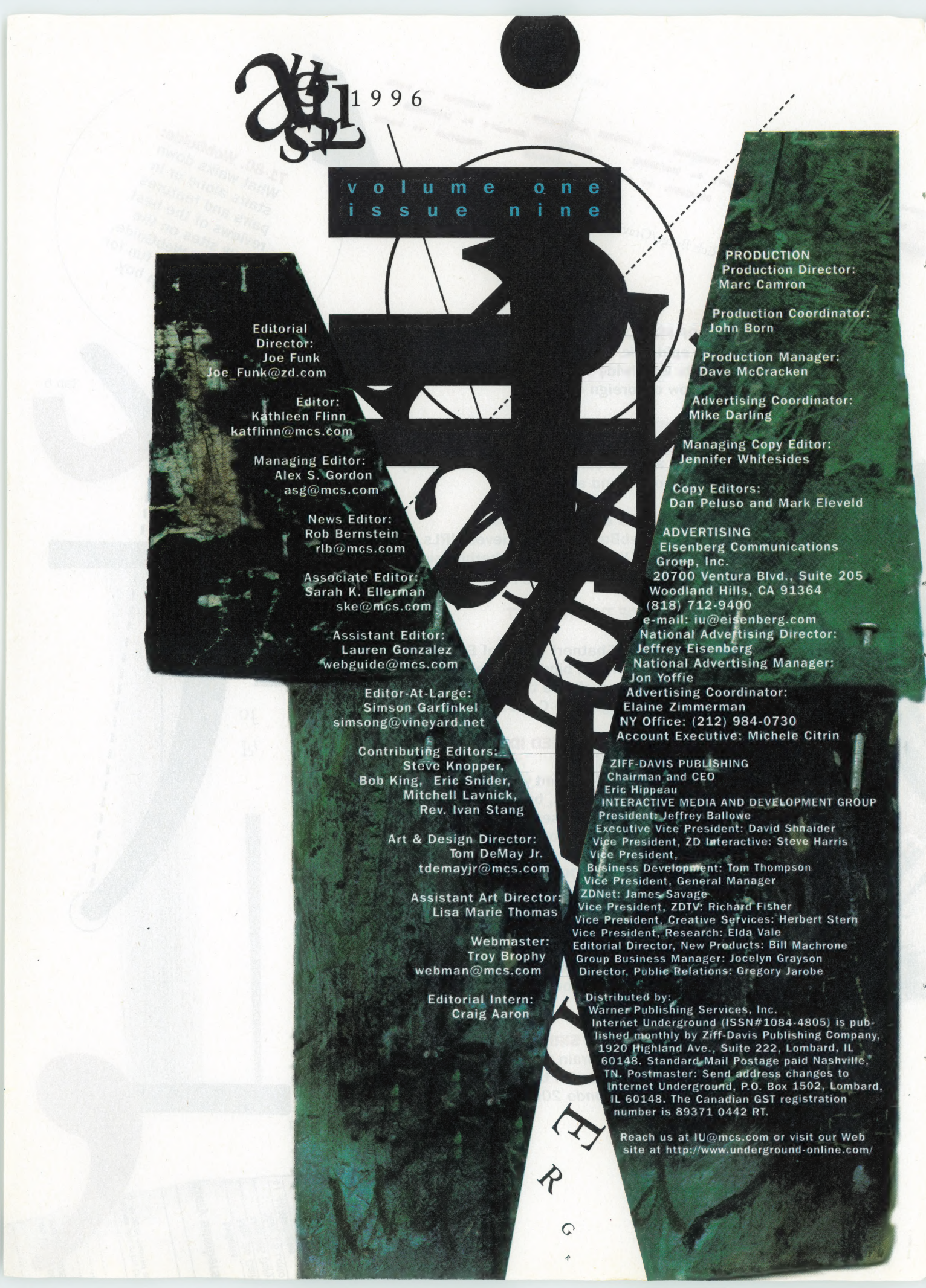
56. •**SPEAK OF THE DEVIL** BY STEVE EDWARDS
Fallen angels speak out about their choice to join the virtual dark side.

62. •**ON THE NET WITH...R.U. SIRIUS** BY MARK KATZMAN
What do your eyes and brain *really* crave? Find out in this candid conversation with the cyberzeitgeist author and former editor of *Mondo 2000*.







1996

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contributors

STEVEN EDWARDS ("Speak of the Devil") has a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of California, San Diego and has worked as a research scientist at Salk Institute and at La Jolla Cancer Research Foundation, as well as an assistant professor in Biochemistry at Meharry Medical College. Currently, he works as a free-lance writer out of Nashville, Tenn. (SAlanEd@aol.com)

STEVE KNOPPER ("Stop the Presses?") began his newspaper career writing obituaries every day at 5 a.m. for the now-defunct *Richmond News Leader* in Virginia; then he was rock music critic for the *Boulder* (Colo.) *Daily Camera* and a features writer at the *Gary* (Ind.) *Post-Tribune*. The Chicago-based free-lancer has written for the *Chicago Tribune*, *Newsday*, the *Rocky Mountain News*, *Rolling Stone* and *Request*. He still looks a bit like Albert Brooks' character in *Broadcast News*. (knopps@suba.com)

OGDEN FORBES ("Law and Disorder") earned his Doctorate in Education Administration in 1995 from the University of San Francisco by writing his dissertation on the history of the Internet. He also holds more degrees than all of our staff members combined, including four Masters Degrees. (oforbes@msmail.pepperdine.edu)

DECLAN McCULLAGH ("Plague of Freedom") covers politics for the Washington bureau of *HotWired*. He runs an electronic mailing list devoted to tracking and responding to U.S. and international attempts at 'net-censorship at **http://fight-censorship.dementia.org/top/**. An eight-year 'net veteran, McCullagh is also a plaintiff in the ACLU coalition lawsuit challenging the Communications Decency Act. He lives adjacent to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. and enjoys visiting the baboons on weekends—the ones on Capitol Hill that is. (declan@well.com)

FRANK LaROSA ("Super Sounds of the Internet") is the fountainhead of Search-light Software, the Cleveland-based multinational software conglomeration that developed the Spinnaker Web server technology. In his spare time, Frank amuses himself by dabbling in cyberculture and communicating with his growing army of online groupies. (frank@searchlight.com)

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UNDERGROUND

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See no evil, speak no evil. This exhortation by the powers-that-be is the theme of this month's *Internet Underground*. As we worked on this issue, we celebrated, because the Internet was deemed a unique communications medium and the Communications Decency Act was declared unconstitutional. So, to all those that would have sewn up our mouths and covered our eyes, this one's for you.

In our pursuit of good journalism and free speech, we spent the month making some mysterious phone calls; we woke up early in the morning to contact England; we found close-mouthed faxes from the NSA in our in-boxes. Lawyers, jailbirds, professors and mouthpieces: We chatted 'em up and got the dirt on what the rules in cyberspace really are. Ever worry about your ISP swindling you? Or that making a printout of a Web site makes you a criminal? "Law and Disorder," by Ogden Forbes, Ed.D., deals with these issues and more. And "Plague of Freedom," by *Hotwired* editor Declan McCullagh, explores tough global issues regarding decency, encryption and copyright in cyberspace. Before it was submitted to *IU*, Declan informs us that his investigative report was banned in 32 nations and has now made him a wanted criminal in 12 others. Together, we're confident that these stories will brief you on the thin, dark ice of legal trouble on the 'net.

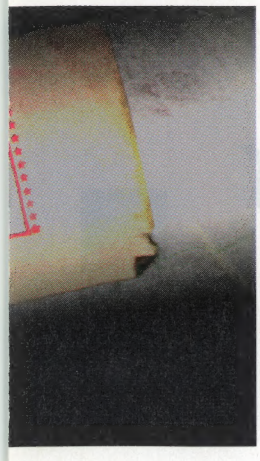
Another question plaguing us: Are vinyl and paper passé? Although many of us at the office are (gasp) a tad geeky in our personal style, there are a few misplaced hipsters wandering the halls. The more astute among us noticed that there's some retro-flavored trends going on—we thought we'd cash in on that '70s sensibility with a tribute to K-Tel. "Super Sounds of the Internet" is a first-hand account of combing virtual bins for vinyl treasures. "Stop the Presses?" by Steve Knopper examines the doomsaying predictions of the death of the printed newspaper. The basic idea here is that these things are no more dead than those chocolate-colored corduroy bell-bottoms that'll run you 50 bucks down at the mall.

We would also like to take a moment to recognize some changes in staff for this month's issue of *IU*. The Reverend Ivan Stang of the Church of the SubGenius has joined us as our new backpage columnist. As anyone who has seen him at a live show can attest, this is a man with a lot to say and a volume dial that goes up to 11. He's full of mouthy charisma and we're glad to have his sorry slacking self on board. We wish the ever-droll Mirsky all the best as he graduates from our @Large column to pursue a book project.

On a more poignant note, we'd like to bid *aloha* to Kathleen Flinn, who left her position as editor of *Internet Underground* to join the Dark Side, er, we mean Microsoft. It's sad that she sold out to The Man, but we'll miss her anyway, because she's a fun person, a good editor and a heck of a floppy-disk seamstress. Goodbye from all of us to the woman who always got what she wanted. Except desk lamps.

The rest of us are still holding down the fort here in Lombard, Ill. This month marked our first issue with our new parents, Ziff-Davis Publishing. We know Sherwood Schwartz glossed over that family-merging issue-thing in *The Brady Bunch*, but we were determined to deal with it head-on. We pulled out our college psychology books and studied up on being lovable children. Cute smiles, crisp editorial—damn it all, they never even noticed. Just a friendly "Keep up the good work." Then they jetted back to the corporate offices.

We felt like honors students left home alone for a week. So did we cut footloose and tear the house up, *Risky Business*-style? Or did we buckle down and put out another exceptional issue? The proof is in the printing, and you're holding it in your hands.



The Doctor is In!

As a resident physician I spend about 110 hours a week on the job, some of it plumbing the 'net for some "serious" information.

But sometimes I cruise around just looking for something that lets me know there are people out there with some frickin' funny stuff on their minds. Your magazine is now a constant fixture in the left pocket of my lab coat, next to all the serious stuff.

Lucio U. Pascua
luciop@hawaii.edu

For a Good Time Read *IU*

Well, it's true. Thanks to your article "Web of Deceit" (by Bob King, *IU* #7) I didn't fall to the "Good Times" virus hoax when it came through an e-mail from Peru only three days after I bought the issue.

I must admit that it took me some time getting used to the format of *IU*, but what happened to me with this virus thing only demonstrates that, at the end, what matters the most is not the looks of your magazine, but what is inside.

Sincerely,
Alfie Urencio Del Río
Mexico City
aurhrakl@data.net.mx

Tiny says: Alfie, I hate to be the one to tell you this, but the article failed to mention that the Peruvian strain of the "Good Times" virus will slowly destroy your hard drive. Just kidding! Ovi, my mailroom friend, falls for that one all the time.

I am a Phreakazoid, Come On and Wind Me Up

Hey, this magazine is great! But I would appreciate more "underground stuff" about hacking and phreaking, 'cause that's what I'm looking for. Otherwise the articles are very easy and funny to read (that's one of the main reasons I buy this magazine), and mostly informative. Keep up the good work!!

Froese Family
f.froese@cgnet.com

Tiny says: I sneaked a peek at the lineup for the upcoming issues and believe me, you and the whole Froese clan will not be disappointed. There's lots more "underground stuff" planned in the "easy and funny to read...and mostly informative" IU style you've come to love.

1984 in 1996

I just picked up my first issue of *IU*. I'd never seen it before and the cover looked a bit more interesting than all of the other Internet mags out there. After reading it I have just one thing to say, this mag kicks ass! It doesn't have all the fluff that the other mags have (I swear if I see one more "amazing $500 Internet box" article I'll puke). I buy at least 10 different mags a month and I usually never end up buying the same ones the next month because they suck, but I'm going to subscribe to *IU*.

Your article "Rise of the Tempest" (by Sarah Ellerman, *IU* #7) was just about the scariest thing I've read in a long time. Right now it may only be government agencies that have this technology but it won't be long until others have it. The public needs to wake up to these threats. The idea that someone can see everything that I do or say on my computer is at least as frightening as coming home to find that someone has broken into my house and gone through all of my things. I hate to sound paranoid but George Orwell may have been right after all—he just had the date wrong!!

Well, thanks for a great mag. I look forward to the next issue.

Brent Martino
kaymen@ma.ultranet.com

In a Tea Pot

TEMPEST is not a new technology as stated in your article "Rise of the Tempest" (by Sarah Ellerman, *IU* #7). Perhaps in the general public's eye, it might be, but not in the realm of the TEMPEST professional. TEMPEST has been around since before the 1960s.

Privacy advocates did not name TEMPEST but may have given the acronym the meaning you printed (Transient Electromagnetic Pulse Emanation Surveillance Technology). TEMPEST is a declassified acronym referring to the control of compromising emissions (those which can be pulled from the air). These emissions are not isolated to your monitor. Keystrokes, disk accesses, data flow from modems, video devices, etc. can all be monitored, recorded and deciphered.

To the best of my knowledge, TEMPEST is mainly used within the government and military to hinder the release of delicate information. With

prices constantly lowering, however, the "mainstreaming" of TEMPEST can easily be visualized. It will be quite some time before TEMPEST becomes a standard in the general law enforcement realm. It is unlikely, therefore, that TEMPEST is widely used to "spy" on the individual at this time. With the advent of new technology and lower prices, yes, it is quite possible that TEMPEST will soon be used more widely and in areas other than military and government.

(In the field, TEMPEST is always spelled in all caps, as it is an acronym. The article spells it once in caps and continues capitalizing only the "T" afterward, while ZONE is spelled in caps throughout its mention.)

How does such classified technology find its way into a civilian magazine such as yours (which I particularly enjoy)? I am currently in the field of TEMPEST equipment manufacturing and am required to have national security clearance.

Other than the few misconceptions I found, your article was quite good. It was informative and understandable to the non-technical, non-versed reader.

Zjman@aol.com

Sarah says: Because of the secrecy and myths surrounding TEMPEST, the article was rather difficult to research, and I found many of my sources in conflict with each other. I appreciate you sharing your technological expertise and clearing up these matters. Judging from the incredulous and indignant e-mail responses that I received, the story clearly touched a nerve with our readers.

The story found its way into IU simply because I have a deep personal interest in privacy.

"Just Go Get a Damn Job!!"

I *LOL* when I saw the thing on poor little Scott ("Weird on the Web," *IU* #7)! He has e-mail now and I told him to just go get a damn job!! And I also asked why he needs a bullet proof vest! He hasn't given a response. Not that I thought he would!!! Keep up the great work...I love your magazine, keep 'em comin'.

John
dolmen@tiac.net

Two for the Price of One

Tiny, the Mail Guy, Postal Pal, the Stampman, Mr. Sticky Tongue, the Big Lick, Mr. Editore, the Big 'E', the E-Zone, the Bag-man, Mr. Hac'n'Sac,

Responding to 'l3tr Of Th3 Mo]\[Th' (*IU* #6) from KickCHICKN@aol.com:

As I started reading his letter I thought it was cool, creative and slick. Then he started in with the old newbie/lamer zing, followed by unwanted people. All this followed, oxymoronically, by @aol.com address.

It takes hours of encouragement to assure 'net hopefuls and newcomers that the 'net is really a cool, friendly, easy place to bop around, see, and interact with the world.

Unfortunately we are still growing out of that old exclusive mentality. Must we still exalt ourselves over others because of our lower levels of patience and self-esteem.

Hey KickCHICKN be confident and sure of your talents, enjoy your interests, and at the same time be confident and sure of others' talents. We are all newbies and lamers at something.

Let's stop taking advantage of the 'net's toddler stages of growth and welcome its maturation with cool underground vision. I'd hate to see the 'net dominated by ads and people who tend to exclude others. Others will, with time, have something to contribute that will blow us away with its content and insight.

While I'm here...here's another for your collection:

Cool magazine! The tempo is quick to the point and full of my kind of content. Others have tried, but you all have done a good job at getting in touch with a good rhythm. I'm hoping you do well and handle your imminent growth well. My advice: Learn from other companies and keep the creative juices flowing by not trying to over administrate! Speaking of other companies, this is the first mag (subscription request coming) I have picked up, have you done a piece on Netscape?

Rick Wentworth
rickw@ici.net

Tiny says: Rick, thanks for all the new nicknames. As for your question, our first issue way back in Dec. featured a story about the bugs discovered by graduate students in Netscape's then-new 2.0 browser. Since then we've referenced the Mountain View juggernaut countless times. Try visiting our site at ***http://www.underground-online.com*** *and doing a search.*

IU's Charity Corner

I have a computer I could give Lee ("Letter of the Month," *IU* #7) but it is an 88. It does have a modem but a very slow one. I wish Lee good luck on getting a computer, and may it be at least a 486.

Your reader,
Skywise
dholt@awod.com

Tiny says: Thanks for the offer Skywise. Remember readers, if any of you have a spare PC or Mac plus a modem sitting around collecting dust, send it to me in the mailroom and I'll send it to 13 ½-year-old Lee. By the way, Lee's letter struck a nerve with another pubescent reader...

Dear *IU*,

As I looked through your June issue I was ecstatic to find that someone my own age had written you (that being Lee). Every month when I go pick up your magazine, I find that everyone around me is male and over 25. And they stare at you as if you're looking for a teen magazine on how to get fuller eyelashes but you're too stupid to know that you're in the computer magazine section. That and the fact that most stores put the computer magazines on the top rack really ticks me off and makes me feel out of place!

Seeing Lee's letter made me feel a lot better and I now don't feel as out of place as I did before.

Thanks *IU* and Lee,
Sarah, sarahm@accel.net
P.S. *IU* rocks!

Yes! You too can see your name in glorious oil-based inks on the pages of this self-indulgent pulp fest!
To be part of the fun, write us at
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snail: IU Attn: Tiny, the Mailguy
1920 Highland Ave., Suite 222
Lombard, IL 60148
phax: 708.916.7227

mail

Web Site?

Thanx for an interesting zine! I picked up the May 1996 issue last month (Media Play is notorious for having old issues of everything) and found some interesting sites to check out and some pretty funny articles.

Anyway, the real point of this is to ask if you have a W3 Site?! I think I have scoured just about the entire zine and cannot find anything but e-mail addresses. I tried to do a www.mcs.com but I got the provider information. Thanx, but I already have an awesome IP here in MN. (www.winternet.com)

Thanx...

Reverend Conrad Dobler
metal@winternet.com

Tiny says: We're on the Web at http://www.underground-online.com. By the way, are you the same Conrad Dobler once labeled "the NFL's dirtiest player" by Sports Illustrated?

Mmmm...Pretzels and Lemonade

Dear Mailguy,

Here is my list of what I have around me when I am on the Internet: glass of lemonade, bag of pretzels, the newest CD I have (right now it's SEAL), an extra phone and a copy of *Internet Underground*. I am a first-time buyer of *IU* but I have read it over and over again. I really enjoyed the Top 11 lists ("Infamous 11s of the 'Net," *IU* #6), and the cover girl, mmm! I like that dress. I'm on the Internet a lot and your magazine has been real informative, especially the WebGuide.

Thanks for a great magazine,

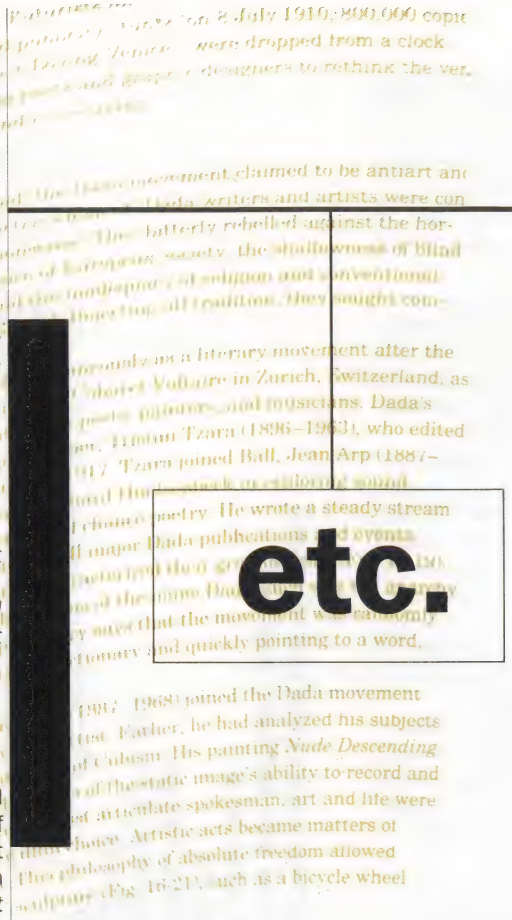
James Freeman
Jzak549@usa.pipeline.com

P.S. I have a way to get rid of those pesky disks. I use them as target practice with my rifle.

The Deady Watch: An *IU* Monthly Feature

Back in January, Mr. G.A. Deady of Columbus, Ohio, sent us our first piece of negative mail. Basically he railed against the magazine, concluding his rant with the dire prediction that we would fold in six months.

Well, Mr. Deady, it's month #9 and they haven't changed the locks on us yet. For those dedicated fans of Mr. Deady and the Deady Watch, our editors are already hard at work securing **an exclusive interview to appear in our fabulous year-end, one-year anniversary issue.** Until then, keep letting us know what you think of Mr. Deady's portent like these readers:



Yay? Who Talks Like That?

I love your magazine! It's lighthearted and kicks ass!

I hope your magazine lives forever! I like ending sentences with exclamation marks! I think that Deady dude sucks! I just got your issue number 7! It ruled! Of course it ruled!

Yay!!!!

Kent
smpumpki.wnin@smtp.usi.edu

Confusing Letter of the Month...

I used to think your magazine was cool. But you insulted G.A. Deady because he's got a dot-matrix printer. **Hey, I've got a dot-matrix printer. I've got a 14.4 modem. I've got an 8-Bit soundcard. I'm using Prodigy to get around the Internet. Now who's old-fashioned?**

Anyway, you've pissed me off. You suck. **I give the magazine 12 months.**

Oh yeah, and do some stuff on industrial music. Maybe that would save your pathetic little asses.

And also, (even though I know you probably can't print this part) **I used to read the magazine *The Net* but *IU* makes it look like some garbage you'd find at the supermarket checkouts.** You ruined your entire issue #6 by printing a picture of one of its stupid covers in there ("alt.culture.watch"), even if the stupid *The Net* logo was blotted out.

Ryan Lawrence
smwx74d@prodigy.com

(Yeah, I know. I can't even figure out how to get the right name on the account.)

No Flipping

Just finished looking through my first copy of your magazine (issue #6). While reading it I found myself noticing something odd...could not quite put my finger on it...then I realized that I was not constantly flipping to the back of the magazine to finish articles!! All articles *(continued on page 62)*

Save these Shows...

Hi, Tiny here. In response to our article "The Immaculate Reception" (by Justin Ware, IU #6), I got inundated with mail from fans of the recently canceled CBS shows Due South *and* American Gothic. *Rather than reprint all their letters, I thought I'd just pass on these URLs for any fans interested in saving these shows.*

Neila J. Dandy (ndandy@direct.ca) wrote with these addresses:
Help Us Save *American Gothic* Page:
http://don.skidmore.edu/~jgilson/agothic.htm
and **Save *AG* Petition:**
http://www.connect.ab.ca/~lroot/agpp3.htm

Ann C. Keitz (akeitz@nas.edu) contributed a bounty of ***Due South*** sites including:
http://www.duesouth.com and http://www.interlog.com/~mcgowan/DueSouth.html, plus a mailing list (LISTSERV@VM.EGE.EDU.TR—put Subscribe DSOUTH-L firstname lastname in the body of the message).

Now when is someone going to organize an effort to get Hope and Gloria *back on the air?*

Victor the SnakeMannn Photo of the Month

Last month Victor the SnakeMannn, who was featured in our "Weird on the Web" section back in May, wrote to complain that he had been wronged because we had not included a photo of him. We couldn't agree more. As a service to our readers we'll print a photo of Victor every month. This month's photo is from Victor's extensive modeling portfolio.

Tiny says: Victor...keep the day job.

Highest Speed.

14.4 Kbps **28.8 Kbps** **ISDN 128 Kbps**

Lowest Price.

Get into the World Wide Web at breakneck speed without breaking the bank. Introducing Cardinal's new ISDN terminal adapter. With data transfer at rates up to 5 times faster than your 28.8 modem, it offers the performance you need at the low cost you want. With the Cardinal ISDN you can move data at a maximum rate of 128Kbps, and getting an ISDN line installed is simplified with the enclosed ISDN documentation. So get up to speed with the newest technology. Stop by your nearest Cardinal dealer or call 1-800-775-0899 ext. 665 for more information today.

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http://www.cardtech.com/

NET TO

#1
Underground Propaganda
http://www.metrix.net/daddict/

Underground Propaganda, described as "truth told in the guise of deception," is a conscious effort by Dead Addict, an interesting and subversive netizen, to question authority and the filter of the media. The centerpiece of the site is Dead Addict's essay "In Defense of Piracy," which is a strikingly fresh presentation on the act of "stealing" software. For instance, the site proposes giving expensive graphics programs to artists in order to elicit and facilitate projects that might not otherwise be possible. Also featured are a potluck of essays on such topics as Internet access for the homeless and the one-on-one social effects of randomly giving money away. A dark and fascinating dig through the underground. (For the whole story behind Underground Propaganda, read "Spotlight" on p. 61.)

#2
The NAMES Project—The AIDS Memorial Quilt Web site
http://www.aidsquilt.org/

"The Quilt is a patchwork of lives, made up of 3' by 6' panels, each remembering a person lost to AIDS." You may not get a chance to visit the AIDS quilt as it makes its journey around the United States this year, but a trip to the official site is both heartwarming and heartbreaking. There are currently over 32,000 homemade panels in the quilt, each the approximate size of a human grave, and each commemorating the death of an AIDS victim. The mission of the quilt is both cathartic and educational; at this excellent site you can learn how to make a panel, sign the guestbook, look at educational links, peruse the quilt's touring schedule and learn how to participate in the display in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 11-13. "The Quilt makes you think—it's a tool for learning about AIDS. The Quilt is the icon of the epidemic—it turns despair into action in communities all over the world."

#3
Dr. Toy's Guide on the Internet
http://www.drtoy.com/

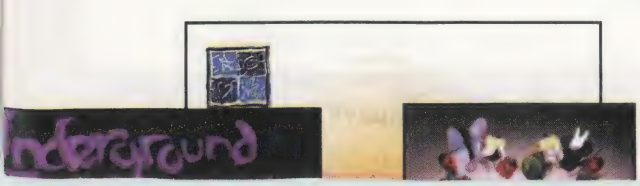
Dr. Stevanne Auerbach, the Director of the Institute for Childhood Resources, is also known as Dr. Toy, the creator of the "100 best children's products awards" and the driving force behind this Web site. Dr. Toy's list of the best toys is complete with photos, prices and telephone numbers to order the toys shown, which range from Coochy Coo Baby to the Nerf Backwards Basketball. This site, however, is not all fun and games. Dr. Toy's Guide also contains practical articles about toys and safety, numerous links to children's resources on the Web and several in-depth toy industry features.

#4
OperaGlass
http://rick.stanford.edu/opera/main.html

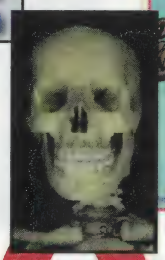
Cartoon Network addicts in the *IU* offices are convinced that the *The Marriage of Figaro* was a little number performed by Bugs Bunny, so we sent them to this culture-rearing site. OperaGlass is a complete opera and classical music resource with information about composers, *librettists*, performances, opera companies and more. The site is mostly textual with links to performers' home pages and a wide array of music links, opera houses and performance schedules. The highlight of this site is the extensive list of operas, replete with synopses, discographies, *librettos*, and occasionally, images. If you can't fathom becoming an opera aficionado, browse the operatic survey and pick up some handy statistical lingo so at least you can assume an air of gentility.

#5
Invention Dimension
http://web.mit.edu/~invent/

MIT is a hotbed of inventin' fools, and this, their showcase of inventors past and present, parades their impressive heritage. Ranging from "historical figures such as Benjamin Franklin, the inventor of the lightning rod and Franklin stove, to living legends such as Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, the brains behind the original Apple computer," this site features a new biographical sketch each week. Always fresh and interesting, the site provides a good mix of big names and lesser-known mothers of invention, particularly many oft overlooked female architects of creation. Invention Dimension encourages people to invent on their own with links to resources, grants, labs and contests—the site hits that perfect balance between amusement and education.



TOP 10



#6
The Skeleton Closet
http://www.realchange.org/

Subtitled "All the Dirt on All the Candidates—Because character DOES matter." You may or may not believe all the dirt here, but we're willing to bet that either way, you'll find The Skeleton Closet a *very* amusing (albeit potentially libelous) read. Real People For Real Change, the keeper of the site, is "an independent, non-connected political action committee certified by the Federal Election Commission since 1992." Their creed: "We do not support any candidate or party, and aim to attack all presidential candidates with brutal fairness." Specifically, they're a bunch of Oregonians "who were fed up with politics—and especially media coverage of politics—and decided to do something besides bitch and drink, like everybody else does." So what they've done is seriously dish out the "facts" on candidates' shady investments, bimbo flings, drug use and issue-waffling for your edification. Take it all with a grain of salt, but definitely take it.

#7
Frank's Vinyl Museum
http://www.searchlight.com/frank/vinyl/index.htm

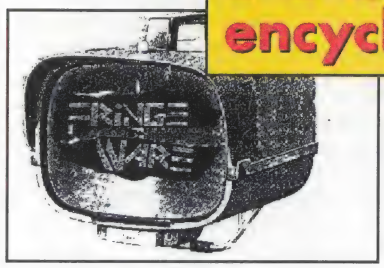
Oh, what do you play first? The "polka disco" version of "Roll Out the Barrel" or a bad cover of a Beatles tune or perhaps a spoken-word recitation by daredevil Evil Knievel? Frank LaRosa offers up his dubious "collection" of albums that he has amassed from the bins of thrift stores, garage sales and the like, and makes them available to Web users everywhere. Most of the museum's sound files are so inherently bad that they're unintentionally hysterical, but then his well-written commentary cements the experience. But it also made us wonder what the heck was going on in the heads of these record company execs while they were coming up with such pathetically loathsome concepts as psychedelic organ music, and how it came to be that they managed to convince marketers to actually sell the idea? (For Frank's guide to the "Super Sounds of the Internet," turn to p. 42.)

#8
Museum of Advertising Icons
http://www.toymuseum.com/

A pop culture lover's fantasy, Creatabili-TOYS' museum is a virtual version of an actual Florida museum housing over 650 "exhibits," with displays of Big Boy, Cap'n Crunch and Colonel Sanders to Messrs. Bubble, Clean and Peanut. Visitors are invited to leisurely browse the halls of the museum or "follow their noses" and search by keywords. Click on any of the toys and you're treated to an entertaining history of that character. To paraphrase the words of one of the museum's occupants, "this site is grrrreat!"

#9
Fringeware
http://www.fringeware.com/

We've long been fans of Fringeware, often referred to as a zine, but best described as a state of mind. The offerings here include music, reviews and attitude all wrapped up in the skin of a catalog (with really cool clothes that slackers everywhere will appreciate). Be warned: They do charge you to read the stuff in their current issue (sometimes just 50 cents). But it may be worth it to avoid sloging through dreck and staring at ad banners.



#10
Panic Encyclopedia
http://www.freedonia.com/panic/

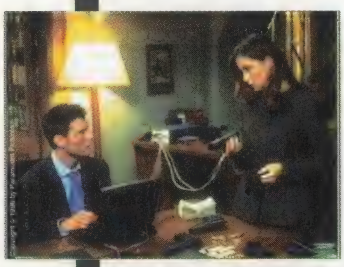
Billed as "The Definitive Guide to the Post-modern Scene," the Panic Encyclopedia acts as more than a collection of definitions. Rather, it attempts to collectively explain what's going on in the world (and what's amiss with it) through a series of exhaustive essays which are assorted by topic, then alphabetically archived. Among the essays, you'll find the reason why children raised with television differ from those of other generations and the impact of Elvis Presley on the American cynicism. Some of the topics seem random ("Panic Florida Sunstrokes"), but all are interesting.

Other mediums

Mission: Send e-mail to an *Impossible* domain

We were surprised to find the Internet playing such a big role in this summer's blockbuster, the Tom Cruise opus *Mission: Impossible*. Cruise, playing IMF agent Ethan Hunt, is shown preparing for a mission by watching some video footage on his notebook computer with the familiar yet antiquated pulsating Netscape "N" logo visible in the background. Just why an IMF agent wouldn't have the latest version of Netscape is curious.

All those Netscape stock holders will be happy to know that Jim and Marc didn't use their hard-earned dollars to buy the product placement. According to the movie's site (**http://www.missionimpossible.com**), the film's producers "applied for permission and license to use the Netscape interface."



The impossible mission that Hunt and his teammates are on is based on "a message intercepted over the Internet," says team leader Jim Phelps. It turns out that a notorious arms dealer, Max, and her contact, Job (pronounced Biblically), do their business through Usenet groups. After the mission fails, Hunt's first thought is to search Usenet for Job 3:14. In a five-minute sequence, we see Hunt using a Deja News-type service searching actual alt.hierarchy sites and then frantically sending out e-mail messages to contact the elusive Max. Aside from the standard goofy e-mail interface that shows each message virtually folded up like a real letter and then shipped off into cyberspace, Hunt sends his messages to max@job 3:14 (sic), an address that really shouldn't work because of a space in the domain name, and also because of the lack of a top-level domain such as .com or .edu. Amazingly, Max gets Hunt's mail and the plot unfurls from there with plenty of hacking and computers, including such mundane details as Max worrying in the middle of a train ride about the Chunnel knocking out her modem connection via cellular phone.

Despite *Mission*'s bizarre e-mail goofs, the film actually portends an encouraging trend: the transformation of the Internet from plot subject to plot device. As opposed to last summer's Internet thrillers which revolved almost entirely around new technology, *Mission*'s scriptwriters better utilize the 'net, showing it as a means for communicating and gathering information, rather than as a technology leading to some conspiratorial end. It's refreshing to see the word "Internet" uttered as part of the vernacular and not some foreign phrase.

Bargain Bin

Coynet
http://www.coynet.nt.ca/

It's a very peculiar hybrid: the coin-operated Internet access machine, the bastard child of a meeting between an arcade game and a PC. "It is very simple to operate, and you can be surfing the 'net in no time at all," the ad copy reads. "The most popular Internet programs may be installed and can be started by a simple point-and-click on the Coynet's 19-inch screen. The customer can quit at any time and immediately receive a cash refund of his remaining time." At first, we thought it seemed a little goofy—imagine frantically pumping quarters in to keep a download cranking—but eventually, we came around to the possibilities. It introduces those without computers to the 'net, and paying with cash is always conducive to privacy. The page concluded, "This Coynet machine is located at our Computer Games Arcade in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. This location caters to a teenage market. This is a good location to prove the reliability of our machine as these customers are not known for being gentle to amusement equipment." Hey—put one in your lobby today!

Numbers on the 'net

We were extra busy this month and, subsequently, had to rely more than usual on vending machine and fast food for sustenance. A look at our diets through Lycos.

Oreos 703	Hydrox 89
Doritos 296	Tostitos 141
Coke 7,450	Pepsi 4,379
Twinkies 875	Zingers 121
Grilled 4,659	Fried 7,536

Netspeak

"To debate whether there is a blatant bias in the American media is like debating whether Bill Clinton is a liar, Hillary Clinton is a woman, the Pope is a Catholic, mountains are high and the ocean is wet. On second thought, let me reconsider the one about Hillary."
—MESSAGE POSTED BY "ARGONAUT" ON A PATHFINDER BULLETIN BOARD

"I can't speak for my father, and it seems pointless to speculate... however, I'm sure he would see the philosophical implications, but I'm sure he'd be threatened by the digital realm, and it's a generational thing. He never played video games."
—SEAN ONO LENNON, WHEN ASKED DURING A PRODIGY CELEBRITY CHAT SESSION WHAT HIS FATHER JOHN LENNON WOULD SAY ABOUT THE INTERNET.

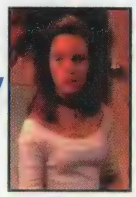
"I think I have shown I am the total package...I have shown my brains...I have shown that it takes brains to manipulate such a large group of men. I have the whole world in my hands...and two Slammies... one for looks...and one for brains!"
—SUNNY, FEMALE WRESTLER WITH THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION, KNOWN FOR BEING THE "NO. 1 DOWNLOADED CELEB ON AOL."

"Seen it on a poster on my wall in my bedroom."
—OASIS BAND MEMBER WHEN ASKED DURING AN AOL CHAT SESSION HOW THEY FOUND THEIR NAME.

.watch

Justine Bateman
http://www.iag.net/~alladin/index1.html

Dudley Moore
http://www.mca.com/grp/grp/artists/moore.rel.html



Jenna Von Oy
http://www.nwlink.com/~cat/jenna.html

Liza Minnelli
http://www.oberlin.edu/~dfortune/lizapage.html

Good Lord No!

One Killer App., with Anchovies

What's the next killer app. for the Internet? How about PizzaNet, a database with a detailed listing of every pizza place in the United States. It could make all other technology obsolete:

"For example, you can search your database for "pizza and 617" to find all of the pizza parlors in the metropolitan Boston area."
—June '96 *Wired*, p. 162, Simson Garfinkel's review of InfoGenie, an address book/database device.

"If it's Saturday at 2 a.m. and you want to know which pizza places within five miles of your home are still open and deliver, you'll find them."
—*Ibid.*, p. 160, Elizabeth Lewis' review of the BigBook Web site.

Until the PizzaNet dream is realized, you can settle for these fine sites: Cottage Inn at **http://www.cottageinn.com**, Pizza Hut at **http://www.pizzahut.com** or Gino's East at **http://www.GinosEast.com/Ginos/index.html**.

Internet Improv

Yet another sign that the Internet has become one with popular culture. The current revues at Chicago's famed Second City theater and its annex, Second City Etc., are respectively titled, "Citizen Gates" and "Farewell My CompuServe." (For more information visit **http://www.secondcity.com/chicago.html**)

BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND

APRIL 30, THE NUMBER OF

STORIES FOUND IN OVER

4,400 U.S. MAGAZINES

AND NEWSPAPERS

SURVEYED THAT USED THE

WORDS "INTERNET"

OR "INTERACTIVE":

98,589

IN THAT SAME SURVEY, THE

NUMBER OF TIMES THE

NAMES "BOB DOLE" OR

"BILL CLINTON" APPEARED:

49,259

PERCENTAGE OF COMPUTER

USERS POLLED WHO SAID

THAT THEY WERE CUTTING

BACK ON TELEVISION

TO GO ONLINE:

58 PERCENT

[The Great Modem Robbery]

Are Modern-Day Extortionists Holding Banks at Their Mercy?

THE INCREDULOUS MISSIVES FROM EUROPE began in early June. "I can't ignore what seems to be going on in England. American media does not appear to be following it," e-mailed Winn Schwartau, author of *Information Warfare*. "The June 2, 1996 *Sunday Times* from London front-page headline reads: 'City Surrenders £400 Million to Gangs.' And HERF guns, electromagnetic pulses and sophisticated logic bombs may be responsible."

Schwartau, a security professional on vacation overseas, was rallying his media contacts around the globe to respond to two London *Sunday Times* articles which described alleged attacks of cyberextortion against financial institutions. The stories claimed that, in the last three years, there have been over 40 attacks by computer criminals who have allegedly siphoned off £400 million (U.S.$635 million) from banks and trading houses in England and the United States. The articles asserted that the crimes were committed with the aid of high-energy radio frequency guns (which send debilitating blasts of power to computers), logic bombs (which can be remotely detonated) and simple social engineering (the practice of tricking people out of their passwords and other sensitive information).

Supposedly this terrorism is being investigated by the British Ministry of Defense, the British Department of Trade and Industry, Scotland Yard, the U.S. National Security Agency and security firm Kroll Associates. However, when several of these organizations were contacted by *Internet Underground* for comment, most refused to talk about any incidents of cyberextortion and chose instead to suggest that *The Sunday Times* had overstated the story.

Andy Towers, a spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry, explains: "The situation was that we were interested in the allegations of electronic attack. We spent a considerable amount of time and effort trying to establish evidence to support those claims. We did speak to government departments, we spoke to the Bank of England and we spoke to other agencies. We did not find any evidence to support those claims." In response to the *Times'* allegation that victims were too shy to come forward with evidence, Towers says, "*The Sunday Times* has chosen to say our efforts were 'hampered.' That wouldn't be the way *we* would describe it."

Within the newspaper stories, the NSA was cited as speculating on the origin of the cybergangs, as well as the methodology of the attacks. In response to questions about possible NSA involvement, Towers wryly replies, "They do not appear on any of the pieces of paper that I've got in front of me." As for the NSA itself, the Agency faxed the following statement to *IU*: "Statements attributed to NSA by the *London Sunday Times* article were not authoritative. There was no contact between the Agency and the *Times* in the preparation of the article. [The] NSA will not comment on speculation such as was contained in the article." The British Ministry of Defense parroted the NSA: "The MOD's involvement in this was minimal and it is not an MOD responsibility. [We] regret therefore that we are unable to answer your questions."

Why the stonewalling? Schwartau says, "In some ways [the *Times* reporters] seem confused and chagrined that their reporting is suspect. They really do believe what they are saying." He relates that the reporters swear that the very sources used in the article give them the cold shoulder when they are called upon to verify their statements. Schwartau suggests, "A logical response for the agencies in power would be to discredit and deny. But let's play devil's advocate: they *could* be telling the truth." He cautions the public to keep the losses in perspective. "Banking industry losses are in the billions, which is enormous, and the approximate percentage of extortion is very small in comparison. It's understood by bankers to be the cost of doing business."

As this issue went to press, Schwartau released more revelations to the security community: High-ranking banking officials have secretly confirmed aspects of the cyberterrorism reports. Visit our Web site at **http://www.underground-online.com** for up-to-date reporting on the topic.

—*Sarah Ellerman*

[A Sucker's Born...]

Forty-Thousand Gullible Internet Users Fall for a Scam as Old as the Pyramids

YOU FOOL, YOU'VE BEEN SUCKERED BY one of the oldest scams known to mankind, the Fibonacci pyramid con. But don't feel bad, because you're not alone. This past June the

Federal Trade Commission took down yet another Internet pyramid hoax that duped up to 40,000 users out of more than $6 million.

The scam was simple: Fortuna Alliance, a "cooperative profit-sharing association" solicited users to purchase an "elite" membership for $250 from their home page at **http://www.commodity-network.com/fortuna1.htm**. The membership entitled the buyer to start his or her own profit-making co-op, or money pyramid. As new Fortuna members, users were told that they would be placed at the bottom of the money pyramid, but as soon as new users joined the coop, they would move up in rank and receive a growing percentage of company profit.

The ridiculous scheme was based on the infamous Fibonacci sequence, a formula devised by 13th-century Italian mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci whose work has been corrupted into endless pyramid scams. Just how preposterous is the pyramid scheme? Well, look at the numbers—just to break even, the 40,000 members who signed up with Fortuna with an initial investment of $250, would need 1.2 million new members to join the program in the next year. If by some miracle, 1.2 million more dupes signed up with Fortuna, they would require over 30 million new members to join the program in order to break even.

The con artists, who were based out of Bellingham, Wash., were eventually discovered by a local police detective who was investigating the company for operating without a license. He recognized that Fortuna was selling Fibonacci flimflam and reported the company to the FTC, who promptly obtained a temporary restraining order from a U.S. District Court in Seattle and in Antigua, where the cons had already transferred $5.5 million.

Currently, the Fortuna Alliance defendants are hiding out in Belize, and there's no certainty as to the location of the entire $6 million. The FTC is making plans to return as much of the stolen money as possible to the victims of the crime, who were primarily Americans, Canadians, New Zealanders and Australians.

According to FTC senior attorney Randy Brook, this is the FTC's 12th Internet case and the number of new Internet cases being investigated is growing in Fibonacci fashion. "This is an obviously burgeoning problem for consumers...things they might not have trusted if someone called them up on the phone, somehow on the screen seems to take on some surprising new validity."

ACCORDING TO U.S. SECRET SERVICE FIGURES, THE TYPICAL PAYOFF FOR "BASIC BANK ROBBERY":

$9,000

THE TYPICAL PAYOFF FOR "COMMERCIAL EMBEZZLEMENT":

$25,000

THE TYPICAL PAYOFF FOR "COMPUTERS USED TO STEAL":

$650,000

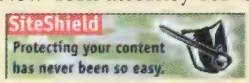
SOURCES: MARTIN INTERACTIVE, COOPERS & LYBRAND AND THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE AGENCY

[Copyright Self-Defense?]

Right-click and save. That's about all it takes to steal (or borrow?) graphics from other Web sites. Currently, a slew of Web and Internet content providers are lobbying for Congress to update copyright laws for the digital age, laws that confront the relative ease with which pilfering netizens can claim or reference protected images on the Internet. But as is indicatory of Congress with regard to the 'net (heck, with a lot of things), inking legislation is a maddening Chinese water torture.

Maximized Software, an Irvine, Calif.-based software company, has taken the issue by the horns with their Web server plug-in module, SiteShield, a utility that protects copyrighted images online. The plug-in essentially works by adding MIME headers to picture files, making the "protected" file unreadable when stolen. For the experienced user, converting the image back into a usable format is hardly a challenge. Ken Spreitzer, President of Maximized, admits the software isn't a 100 percent solution—although it does provide an extra measure of protection for the copyright owner by showing a "conscious effort," on the user's part, to steal the graphic.

An interesting concept. But according to Craig Snyder, a New York attorney for Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, "while some copyright owners may see value in making it more difficult to copy Internet images or text, there is no requirement under Copyright Law that owners use state-of-the-art technology to prevent copying." Since 1978, says Snyder, copyright protection has applied automatically to any work that's placed in any tangible medium; "conscious effort," does not help a plaintiff's case in regard to copyright infringement.



Another issue with Maximized's software is that it prevents images from being cached, so that every time a user wants to view a SiteShield protected page, it causes that page to fully reload.

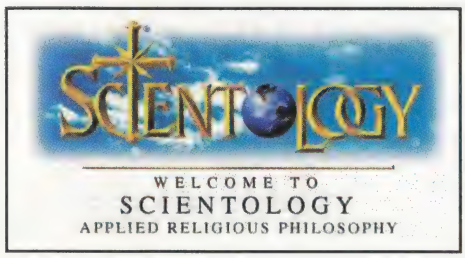
So is SiteShield "technological and legal snake oil," as one Usenet poster posited? Not quite. At the very least, it solves the right-click problem...but then again, it may cause more trouble than it's worth ($499).

[The 'Net's Unholy War]

Scientologists and Their Rivals Are Battling It Out Once Again on the 'Net

ON MAY 19, A USER OPERATING UNDER THE assumed name "Chris Maple" posted the first in a cannonade of vertical spam attacks, or mass postings, to the already fire-heavy Usenet group alt.religion.scientology. The newsgroup has been inciting fierce debate between Scientologists and anti-Church activists, who have opposed the religion's practices since its creation in 1991. But according to users who frequent the group, the mission behind this latest round of attacks goes far beyond flaming: It's a movement to kill a.r.s. once and for all.

Attempts by scientologists to shut down the controversial newsgroup is nothing new. In 1995 a Church lawyer, Helena Kobrin, sent a message to Usenet system administrators demanding that the discussion group be deleted, citing that the title of the newsgroup and users posting to the newsgroup were infringing on Church trademarks and copyrights. For the most part, sysadmins ignored the request to dump the newsgroup and discussion on a.r.s. has continued on as usual, rough-and-tumble.



The recent mass spammings of Church material, however, presents a greater threat to a.r.s. than past efforts by Scientology enthusiasts. Keith Spurgeon, a New York University employee who maintains **Scientology® Materials Posting Attack** at

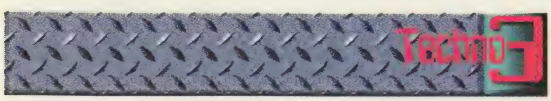
http://www.bway.net/~keith/spam/spam.htm believes that the Church may be responsible for organizing the spamming attacks. "They've tried in the past to stop discussion through lawsuits and by raiding people's homes, and things like that have only tended to attract more people into discussing Scientology. So they're going back to try it again with bigger guns this time...they should realize that it's ineffectual and all it's doing is straining the resources of service providers."

Feeling that very strain, Yale University, where the incendiary "Chris Maple" posting had originated from, decided to block all postings to the newsgroup via their mail-to-news gateway (the school's postmaster reported 886 attempts to send messages to a.r.s. through their gateway during the

[Mixed Media]

HBO nets Web thriller

It's the first Internet serial to cross over into the television market. Blue Pearl Entertainment at **http://bluepearl.com** has inked a deal with HBO Independent Productions to turn their *Whiz Kids* a la *Charlie's Angels* cyberthriller, *Techno 3*, into a TV series. The Web show, about three "femme fatale" hackers who are controlled by an unscrupulous cyberterrorist should be a nice addition to HBO's late-night evening fare (right after *Taxi Cab Confessions* perhaps), with its fatuous plot, bad writing and ridiculous perceptions of computer technology. HBO has also launched its own home page at **http://www.hbo.com**, a site that thankfully offers some more intelligent material, particularly content from the *Dennis Miller Live* show.



USA on WWW

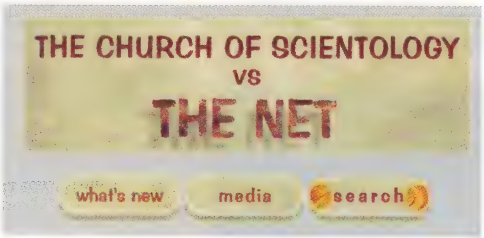
The new USA Network site at **http://www.usanetwork.com**, is little more than a television guide to the station's daily programming. There are a few cool Java applications, a trivia quiz (with challenging questions about Lorenzo Lamas' *Renegade* and other quality programs) and a number of bulletin boards where fans can post dialogue about their favorite shows. The Dominion, USA Networks' other major Web site at **http://www.scifi.com**, is still far superior to this new launch, and a much better waste of time.

28-hour period just after shutting down the link). Owners of the domain names ars.org and ars.net, the American Rose Society and an Italian service provider respectively, are also angered by the a.r.s. spamming, particularly because forged spams are being posted with their domain names in the "From:" header.

In response to the accusations and the May 19 barrage of Scientology material spammed onto the a.r.s. newsgroup, the Church's international public affairs spokesperson, Debbie Blair, says: "Our position on the multiple posts to alt.religion.scientology—or to any other newsgroup for that matter—is simple. Anyone who wishes to express himself or herself is free do so thanks to the United States Constitution." As for the spams and those individuals combating them, Blair says, "It's only a few hypocrites that would complain. When they express themselves on a.r.s. or anywhere else, no matter how vile and hateful their postings are, we acknowledge their right to say what they want."

The Church did not take responsibility for the spamming, but open letters from Scientologists to the Scientology community have made their way onto the 'net and indicate that Church members have considered using the tactic in the past (see the **Church of Scientology vs. The Net** site at **http://www.cybercom.net/~rnewman/ scientology/home.html**).

Heated about the noise damage that the relentless spamming has caused to a.r.s., Ron Newman, a programmer at New Frontiers Information Corp., suggests that ISPs exchange names of the abusers and develop a blacklist to save other ISPs from victimization. Another outspoken contributor to a.r.s., Stephen Taylor, has posted a "remedy solution" that involves the employment of a sorting bot that can separate out incoming posts. There has also been discussion of initiating a last-resort



Usenet Death Penalty (a way of shutting out all of an ISP's users from accessing newsgroups) against service providers who allow 'net access to rogue spammers. Directnet, an ISP that appeared to be harboring two of the rogue accounts, finally broke under the pressure imposed by many disgruntled users posting on news.admin.net-abuse.misc who threatened the service with the "death blow." Consequently, the spammers were dumped by Directnet, but have reportedly been abusing open NNTP servers all over the world.

Spamming isn't unusual on Usenet newsgroups, but abusers of alt.religion.scientology are setting a particularly unhealthy precedent with their attempts to quell open discussion, says Newman who also runs the **Church of Scientology vs. The Net** home page (see URL above). "I feel really strongly about people's rights to speak freely," says Newman, "but without these forums for open discussion, there's really no reason to have the 'net." —*Rob Bernstein*

[>IU Insider]

Bad Ad Placement

The chief of the multimedia service department of the largest phone company in Japan, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, recently contacted the 17-year-old author of the "Why AOL Sucks" page asking what advertising rates he had available.

The Larchmont, N.Y., teenager thought it was a joke, and didn't return her e-mail—but he forwarded it to the AOL Sucks mailing list. "I kinda get a kick out of the thought of clueless Japanese executives sending bagloads of money to James," one business consultant commented.

Too Many Disks Too Much Time

In Fresno, Calif., Mark Johnson faces 55 counts of credit card fraud, 55 counts of wire fraud and one count of fraud by computer. Johnson allegedly used a stream of online service free-trial disks to harass the services' users—the same group of users, over a period of months. Plans to throw the book at the notorious "Vito" were eventually reduced to charges of misusing the trial accounts. But even after an investigation was launched, Johnson continued sending taunting posts from the Ripco bulletin board system.

He was finally indicted in July of 1995 for activities that began in February of 1993. Standing in handcuffs in an "American Prison Tour" T-shirt, he was also ordered by the judge to stay away from his computer, the local press reported. After many delays, the trial was scheduled to start this past June.

As it turns out however, the trial will never take place. Johnson agreed to plea bargain and will be sentenced this August. He was found guilty on an unrelated charge of transporting a minor across state lines for immoral purposes involving a foreign exchange student from Scandinavia—so the free-trial disk charges are really the least of his worries.—*David Cassel*

Net Nomenclature

Haxploitation: (from Blaxploitation, a film genre popular in the early '70s) The genre of recent computer thrillers (such as *The Net, Hackers* and *Virtuosity)* attempting to turn a buck on the explosive popularity of the Internet.*

Ticker-tapeworm: An irritating Java applet that runs along the bottom of your browser, eating away information regarding a URL you're attempting to access.

Fornetfulness: The bitter frustration one feels when misplacing or forgetting the password and login name to a site demanding verification.

alt.heimer's: Pervasive ailment afflicting memory center of the brain. Symptoms include inability to remember any truly amusing newsgroups in the alt hierarchy.

*Kudos to Samantha Lynn (73524.43@compuserve.com) for "Haxploitation." **Send your 'Net Nomenclature submissions to iu@mcs.net. If we use it, you'll win the *IU* Random Prize™.**

[Surfing the Web Incognito]

Anonymizer.Com Offers Users Greater Levels of Privacy Against Advertisers' Hidden Agenda

EVERY TIME YOU ACCESS A WEB SITE, YOU LEAVE A digital paper trail of sorts. And from it, Web site operators can surreptitiously gather information on all kinds of things pertaining to you, such as information about the browser you're using, the site you're arriving from, the operating system you're running, your e-mail and possibly your home mailing address. Surfing the Internet is definitely not an anonymous affair.

That doesn't mean you can't surf the Web anonymously. In fact, the Netscape 3.0 beta includes a new security feature that warns you before "cookie" files (files that store information about you and your browsing activities), are set on or read from your hard drive. Of course, few users are currently using Netscape 3.0, and even we at *IU* have a "betaversion" to downloading it. What to do then? Try using the "anonymizer," a service programmed and conceived of by Carnegie Mellon students Justin Boyan and Marc Ringuitte.

The service acts as a "middleman" between you and the Web sites you choose to visit. Surfing anonymously is as easy as prefixing the URL you want to visit with "http://www.anonymizer.com:8080." Thus, if you want to visit Underground Online incognito, type in the URL "http://www.anonymizer.com:8080/ http://underground-online.com."

The anonymizer can hypertext link anonymously, access sites that require user authentication (like *The New York Times* site), and handle http, ftp, news and gopher protocols. The only time anonymity can't be guaranteed with the anonymizer is when downloading external helper programs like Real Audio or when accessing sites with JavaScript inline programs (although the anonymity FAQ promises that Java applets cannot "bypass the anonymity mechanism").

"And if you're even more paranoid and want to make extremely sure that no one is finding out what you're doing, once the technology improves, you'll be able to use multiple anonymizers around the world," says Sameer Parekh, president of Community ConneXion, an Internet service provider that hosts the service. "And that'll mean that someone browsing the Web that wants to remain anonymous can go to one anonymous site, and rather than tell that site to grab pages directly, can tell that anonymizer to go to a second anonymizer site which goes to a third anonymizer site that finally grabs the pages. So then you have three levels of interaction for greater levels of privacy."

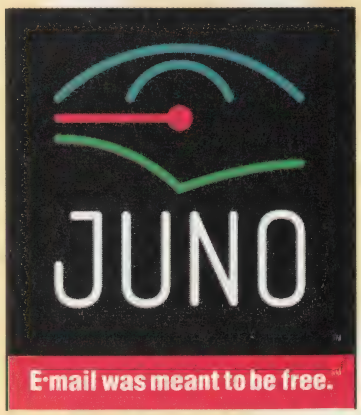
The anonymizer, at **http://www.anonymizer.com**, is currently accessed by over 20,000 users per day. Despite all the traffic, both Parekh and Boyan insist that the service will always remain free. Says Boyan, "Everyone has the right to know when they're revealing information."

[Is it Worth it?]

[JUNO ONLINE SERVICES http://www.juno.com]

It's free. Yes, this month's "Is It Worth It?" costs *nada*. Juno, an electronic mail service for Windows, provides users with an e-mail-only account at no charge. What's the catch? Well, Juno works on an advertising model—because the service is offered *gratis*, the company suspects that they'll have a subscription base numbering in the hundreds of thousands by year's end (Juno claims they've already received up and over 100,000 requests for the proprietary software since April 22). All of these eyes are valuable to advertisers who can purchase banners that rotate every 30 seconds at the top of the e-mail interface or buy "showcase" ads that appear on the screen while users are actually downloading messages.

The ads are a little distracting, but they're hardly intrusive. Privacy freaks, however, may be somewhat disconcerted by the 18 marketing questions (some are optional) that must be answered by new subscribers before receiving the free service. The questions ask for information about one's hobbies, occupation, yearly salary and so on. Charles Ardai, President of Juno, promises that all answers are kept private, but a vague stipulation in the subscriber contract is noteworthy. It reads: "You agree that Juno LP, in its sole discretion, may use Member Registration Information and other information provided by you or relating to your use of the Service to facilitate the distribution of information to you by others and for purposes deemed appropriate by Juno LP in its sole discretion, and may distribute any of such information to others in its sole discretion." This legal gobbledygook is a little unclear, and in theory, could be interpreted to mean that Juno has the right to read and distribute your e-mail at its discretion. Ardai agrees that the legal statement is somewhat vague, but insists that the clause was only included so that Juno could provide advertisers with information on the number of clicks specific advertisements had received.



Aside from *IU*'s slightly paranoiac impression of the contract, the service looks pretty legit. The software is easy to download and remarkably intuitive. But it's not a service for everyone. Juno is targeted primarily to newbies who aren't terribly interested in receiving any kind of service beyond e-mail. If you're already signed up with a service provider, and you receive e-mail service at no extra charge, Juno may be more of a hassle than anything else. Then again, it's pretty cool that Juno's there for you if you ever need or desire an additional e-mail address, for whatever reason. To receive a copy of the free software, call 1-800-654-JUNO or send an e-mail request to signup@juno.com.

[The Beef Over PeTA]

Animal Rights Group, Satirist Lock Horns in Domain Name Dispute

"WHAT'S IN A NAME?" INTERNIC, THE COMPANY THAT doles out domain names, could use Shakespeare's advice in answering that question, as the number of disputes for URL addresses is becoming increasingly commonplace in cyberspace.

Stories abound of big companies like Time Warner, Avon and Hasbro coming onto the 'net and reclaiming trademarked addresses from small companies or private individuals (a complete list of domain name disputes is available at **http://www.law.georgetown.edu/lc/internic/recent/rec1.html**). But a recent dispute elevates the debate from issues of trademark infringement to issues of free speech rights online. Last September, Michael Doughney applied for and was assigned the address www.peta.org. Rather than posting information on the page about the well-known animal rights group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Doughney highlighted his very own People Eating Tasty Animals.

Doughney says he created the site, not because he had a particular ax to grind with the controversial animal rights group, but "as an experiment to see what happens when you do something like this." The site is essentially a storehouse of links to meat, fur, hunting, taxidermy and other pro-consumption sites.

People Eating Tasty Animals

In December, Doughney, 37, says he received a letter from PeTA asking him to relinquish their trademark as his domain name. He ignored their request, prompting PeTA to contact InterNIC and complain. InterNIC, under the rules of its new dispute policy, gave Doughney three options for settling the dispute. Doughney chose door number three: He refused to take a new name and had the domain "peta.org" placed on hold status until the dispute could be resolved.

Michael McGraw, a spokesperson for PeTA (whose Web site currently resides at **http://www.envirolink.org/arrs/peta**) says that his organization was actually very amused by the site. "He's out to throw a wrench in the works of our Web site," says McGraw. "It's a strange situation. He's put incredible amounts of time into a Web site that's of no use to anyone...the information he's put up there—info about the meat industry, the fur industry—that's all stuff that's readily available elsewhere."

Doughney, who runs Digex, a Washington D.C.-area Internet service provider, believes that domain names should be on a first-come, first-serve basis and that the courts or Congress, and not InterNIC, should set the precedents. The firebrand is even developing an organization named the Domain Name Rights Coalition to oppose InterNIC's practices.

He hasn't filed any lawsuits yet and Doughney says he's not sure how far he'll take his dispute with PeTA. In the meantime, he has set up the site at a new address, **http://www.mtd.com/tasty/**, (the "mtd" happens to be his intials). Amusingly, it appears as if the new URL is also going to cause him difficulties. Recently, Doughney received a letter from Modern Tool and Die corporation informing him that they hold the trademark to "MTD" and asking him to relinquish his new address.

—Alex Gordon

[Net Briefs]

Reports of a new Japanese data-scrambling chip, manufactured by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., has rekindled debate over the Clinton administration's support of the Clipper chip technology. The infamous Clipper chip, with its built-in "back door" technology, was designed to provide the FBI with a means to conduct electronic surveillance on new technologies. The NTT chip however, which maintains more powerful encryption capabilities than the loathed Clipper chip, allows no such "back door" for the FBI. Sorry feds, you've been locked out.

Clipped Clipper

The LRT, or Loi sur la Reglementation des Telecommunications, is the quasi-equivalent to the United States' Communications Decency Act. Of special interest, this law: 1) forces French Internet Service Providers to blacklist sites or newsgroups that are determined illegal under French law. 2) creates key escrow encryption rules that frees the use of powerful cryptography to protect the content of private e-mails, but (and this is a big "but") requires that "back door" encryption keys be provided to Trusted Third Parties for purposes of law enforcement.

France's CDA

AOL addicts can whittle away the high cost of chatting each time they make credit card purchases using the new, handsome America Online Visa Card. Subscribers earn points, that translate into free hours online, for each dollar they spend using "the card." How are the savings? You have to charge $200 on the card to obtain one free hour of online use. You do the math.

Credit AOL

Dewar's Whisky has launched the latest in an onslaught of interactive mystery Web sites (**http://www.dewars.com**). The site is aesthetically pleasing, the Whisky awfully enticing, but currently it's organized in a drunken fashion. Worth a quick toss, but needs some sobering up.

Whisky Web

From those oh-so-zany folks at the GlamOrama Web site, at **http://www.raggededge. com/glam**, comes the new voodoo "Poke in the Eye" Internet service. For free, GlamOrama will mystically transmit a painful real-time jab in the peepers to anyone you deem deserving of such anguish.

Express Your "Point of View"

Weird on the web

THE STAR WARS HUMOR PAGE

http://www.epix.net/~killando/

The movies of the *Star Wars* trilogy are famous for their triumphant plots, drama and special effects, but aren't typically renowned for their yuk-it-up element. This page seeks to poke fun at all that over-the-top blasting and dogfighting with a huge helping of *Star Wars*-inspired humor. Song parodies are particularly amusing; just read this adaptation of Don McLean's "American Pie:" "And we were singin'/ Bye-bye Return of the Jedi/We'll wait 15 years for sequels as Binkley prophesied/And while we wait, we'll make do with *Deep Space Nine*/Singin' May the Force be with you and I, May the Force be with you and I." The site's denizens also seem especially intent on "killing Lando." Billy Dee Williams' character irks true fans with his traitorous ways and "death-grip on the obvious." Much time is spent discussing his rightful demise. Finish up with lots of Top Ten lists, parodies and the delightful Wedge Antilles Fan Page.

CINEMA MUERTO

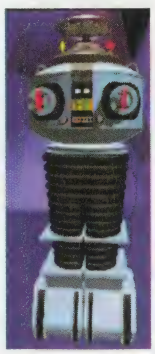
http://users.aol.com/Cinemam/Muerto.htm

Billed as "The First (and Possibly Last) Publication Devoted to Really Bad Cinematic Achievements," we approached Cinema Muerto with some trepidation. Sure, we've been forced to watch *The Legend of Boggy Creek* and all the Godzilla movies, but we weren't sure we had the mettle to handle this site. You can read helpful tips on watching bad films: "Endurance is the key...Once the film is over, all of the horrible memories of boredom and poor taste are replaced with the fond remembrances of plot flaws and laughably cheap special effects." The site reviews such classics as *Vampires on Bikini Beach* and *Dollman* and also revels in making note of editing errors and plot problems in films. A true trash-fest of fun horror and low budgets.

DR. SMITH ROBOT INSULTS LIST

http://www.filmzone.com/~vkoser/vader/lost_in_space/lost_in_space.html

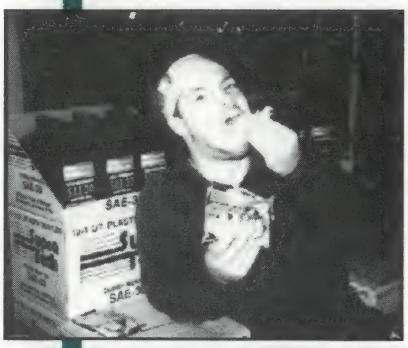
Remember that loathsome, cowardly Dr. Smith? Smith, who wound up as an unwanted, uninvited guest on the Jupiter II, the home away from home for the Robinson family in the 1960s sci-fi show *Lost in Space*? Learn more about him than you would ever care to at this *Lost in Space* tribute site. It's certainly thorough, particularly the list of robot insults spoken by Dr. Smith, almost all of which are ridiculously alliterative. Consider these entries: "Cackling Cacophony," "Cackling Canister," "Cackling Clod," "Cackling Cookoo," "Cackling Coward," "Cantankerous Clod," "Cantankerous Cold-Hearted Clod" and "Caterwauling Clod." A few seem like quite a mouthful, like "You Traitorous Tin-Plated Fugitive from a Junkyard," but they're well worth learning, as evidenced by a recent name-calling contest in our offices, where former editor Kathleen Flinn was reduced to tears by the aforementioned line. The site doesn't tell readers about what happened to Jonathan Harris, the actor who played Dr. Smith (he's now in his 80s). We did find out, however, what happened to Bob May, 55, who carried the 250-pound metal suit around for three decades for his part as Robot. He now plays supper clubs in L.A.



RUDE THINGS IN MY FRIDGE

http://www.wbm.ca/users/kgreggai/html/fridge.html

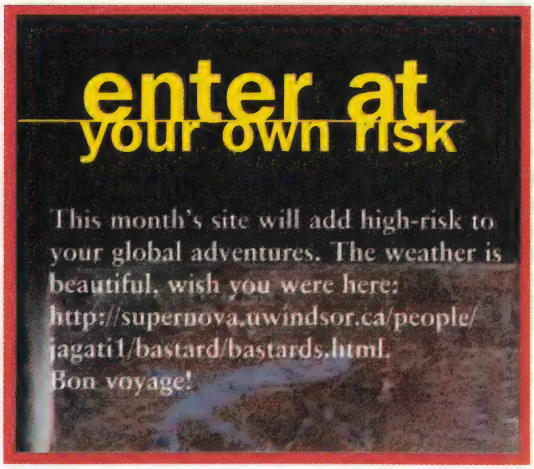
"Sheesh! How can anything that used to taste so good, smell sooo bad?" This hapless male is at the mercy of his refrigerator. The only weapon at his disposal seems to be his crack sense of sarcasm. Each month, this self-described "lowly bachelor" posts a picture of the most disgusting thing he found in his fridge. Past contenders include some moldy cheese ("Free fur coat!") and wieners ("My baloney has a first name, it's D-E-C-A-Y). Complemented with pictures of rats and houseflies, we don't recommend surfing here right after lunch; it's cute, but gross. The page closes with the question, "Oh yeah. Anyone know of a good chemical to get this scanner lid clean? Yuck."



HOW TO TURN THE WORK LIFE OF A 7-11 EMPLOYEE INTO A LIVING HELL

http://www.cs.uit.no/~paalde/Revenge/Scripts/7-11.html

The author of this site has used his experiences working at dozens of convenience stores and gas stations to compile the definitive how-to list of annoying the underpaid staffs of the quick-stop shopping world. Among his helpful suggestions: "Jam the handle on the Slurpee/Slushie/Whatever machine so that the mush keeps on flowing after you leave. Watch the cashier cry when he finds it." He also suggests calling up cashiers and asking questions such as, "So, are you working there alone? How much money do you have in the cash register right now? Do you have one of those silent alarms behind the counter? Do the cops respond quickly in your area?" Other fun subcategories include "How to Survive the Graveyard Shift," "Screwing Your Store Out of Millions of Dollars" and "Proven Ways to Get Yourself Shot." A sample tidbit from the latter category: "Pick up the phone and dial 911. Tell the police what's happening as you take your time putting the robber's money into a paper bag. If he gets mad, tell him, 'Shhhhhhh! I'm on the phone!'"



EVIL PEOPLE INC.™

http://www.gaijin.com/EvilPeople/

Bored with your tedious job? Perhaps you want to break out of your cubicle and get a job breaking skulls as a Mindless Thug with Evil People Inc.™ If that's not your thing, they have many other openings for bright, energetic, ambitious and hell-damned individuals. Do you want the world's wealth, good looks, some cheap women and a cool car without the hassles of employment? Consider the site's offer to sell your immortal soul. We found the list of items that subjects were willing to trade in their soul for quite intriguing. Among the stranger requests: a rubber chicken and 5,000 feet of rope.

THE SCRUMDELICIOUS URBAN VERMIN GOURMET

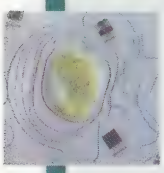
http://www.mcs.net/~anetko/recipes/gourmet.html

What do you mean rats and other uninvited household pests are distasteful creatures? You obviously haven't seen the Urban Vermin site, where rodent and insect recipes are posted that even Julia Child would approve of. Exterminate your pests with delicious results, such as Pickled Rat Gazpacho and Oriental Cockroach Salad. Each recipe is clearly written, with precise directions on how to chop, crush or julienne the vermin in question, although we were disappointed not to find any photos of the completed dishes. We cooked the Penne Pasta With Fresh Cockroach Spears, a gustatory triumph! We suggest serving this one with some crusty French bread and a nice Merlot.

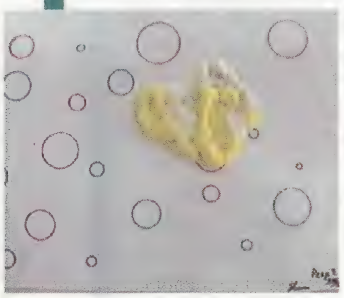
PEEP ART

http://www.psy.cmu.edu/~sb6s/peepart/main.html

The site's manifesto says it best: "Anyone can put a peep into a microwave and fry its butt, but it takes true genius and inspiration to turn that yellow pile of stuff into something worth hanging on a wall!" Peeps, in case your parents were dentists, are traditionally those little marshmallow treats shaped like chicks or bunnies that reign supreme at Easter time. Recently, peeps shaped like pumpkins have also started showing up at Halloween time...but enough about the history of peeps.



This site is about the emerging school of peep art. Besides simple instructions for creating your own peep works, there's a gallery of peep images in categories of impressionism, surrealism and post-modernism. Hilarious commentary accompanies several of the "objects d'peepart," placing the works in context by tracing their origins to Dali and Picasso. The art is faithfully rendered at the site, but by its very nature peep art is best experienced in all three dimensions. For those readers fortunate enough to attend Carnegie Mellon University, we encourage you to visit the originals hanging in Baker Hall, room 342C. Hours are variable, so please e-mail ahead to arrange a private showing.



BRAD'S LEPROSY POETRY CORNER

http://www-scf.usc.edu/~werth/poetry.html

Who doesn't like a good limerick about leprosy? This site does not attempt to ridicule or dishonor lepers. Rather, it's a collection of free-verse poetry, haiku and rhyming verse about the disease perhaps best known for its many Biblical references. Anyone can submit writing here, although you should know ahead of time that the Webmaster verifies donor's e-mail addresses to ensure contributors accountability for their own words. You'll be entertained, even if you're a bit disturbed. "So I'm a leper/It doesn't change my lifestyle/but for the rotting."

THE COREY HAIM FANZINE

http://www.dfw.net/~kentb/

Thankfully, this site is not a reverential tribute to the young actor who thrilled audiences with his virtuoso performances in *Lucas* and *The Lost Boys*. Rather, the fanzine pokes fun at the thespian who has gone on to distinguish himself as the posterchild of direct-to-video trash. Among the nuggets to be found here are (at this point we ask our younger readers to please skip to the next sentence) naked stills of Haim from the film Blown Away (not the one with Tommy Lee Jones and Jeff Bridges) and details of his 1993 arrest on a misdemeanor for exhibiting a replica of a handgun in a threatening manner. Besides the series of photos of Haim with his doppelganger partner-in-crime, Corey Feldman, the most disturbing item on the site comes from a transcript of an interview from the *Arsenio Hall Show*. Congenial Arsenio asks Haim, "If you could work with one person, who would it be?" Haim's response: "John Ritter."

lassic

WEIRD ON THE WEB

Carlos A. Howard Funeral Home

http://shops.net/shops/Carlos_A_Howard_Funeral_Home/

Picking out your casket can be an awfully big decision. After all, it's your *final* resting place. But who has the time in these busy, hectic modern days to comparison shop for caskets? Fortunately, this Texas funeral home has brought fine-tooled boxes, crafted for "the big sleep," to the Web. From the comfort of your desk, you can gaze at the splendor of a fine selection of coffins. Our favorite is the $4,100 Montrachet Mahogany/Champagne Whitehall. It's made from solid mahogany with decorative marquetry veneer with hand-rubbed finish and an adjustable mattress. If that's a little out of your price range, you might want to consider another model made from solid Mediterranean oak with a light pecan stain. That one will run you about $1,100. Shipping on all caskets is free. And, as an added bonus, you'll get a $200 discount for ordering through the 'net.

http://engine.turnpike.net/cgi-bin/htmlscript?-tennisball/wacko.hts

The resident kook at Wacko of the Week is the custodian of the wackos, the keeper of the kooks. Webmaster Dave Donaldson corrals all of the Internet's kooks into one place, his home page. Each week, Donaldson selects and links to three wacko candidates with Web sites and gives netizens the opportunity to rate the nominee's sanity level. A plea to start an embassy for people from outer space and an essay by someone who feels that "*E.T.* represents the single greatest threat to civilization as we know it," are examples of individuals up for nomination. Your vote counts, so be sure to cast your ballot.

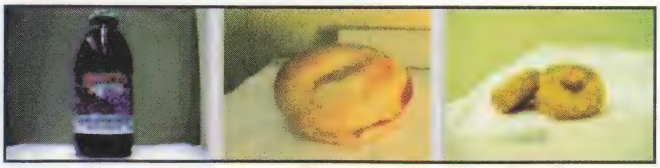
The potential kooks are pretty strange, but you don't have to take the Webmaster's word for it. He links directly to their sites, so you can witness their insanity with your own eyes. The winners of the contests, rather, those individuals who are most crazed, are also posted and linked to. The Wacko of the Week page is entertaining, but the truly deranged archive belongs to the "Original crackpots page," yet another Donaldson byproduct. This page, **http://engine.turnpike.net/cgi-bin/htmlscript?-tennisball/crackpot.hts**, separates the crackpots' links into easy-to-use categories that differentiate the wide array of kooks by insanity-type, such as: the "They're out to get me" freaks and the "On the verge of going postal" people. After all, not all kooks are created equally as demented.

THE REDNECK GAL'S HOME READER

http://metro.turnpike.net/-dwc/bredarae/

Ain't nuthin' this amusing north of the Mason-Dixon. Self-proclaimed redneck gal Breda Rae Goodballett shares her bucolic wisdom on this Web site created "to help those of you who are somewhat, shall we say, challenged in the ways of us deep-in-the-bowels-of-West Virginia-redneck gals." In addition to such varied pages as the weekly "Citizen Profile," "Today's Breda Rae of Sunshine" (a daily commentary) and "Everything Important 'bout Datin', Matin' and Gettin' Bye," a comprehensive guide to relationships, you'll find Breda Rae's advice column: "If Odius won't agree to a .357, maybe he'd let you buy a .22 or at least a bowie knife or a can of mace." And don't miss the discussion groups that tackle such topics as trailer park and bathroom sins.

THE INTERNET LUNCH SERVER



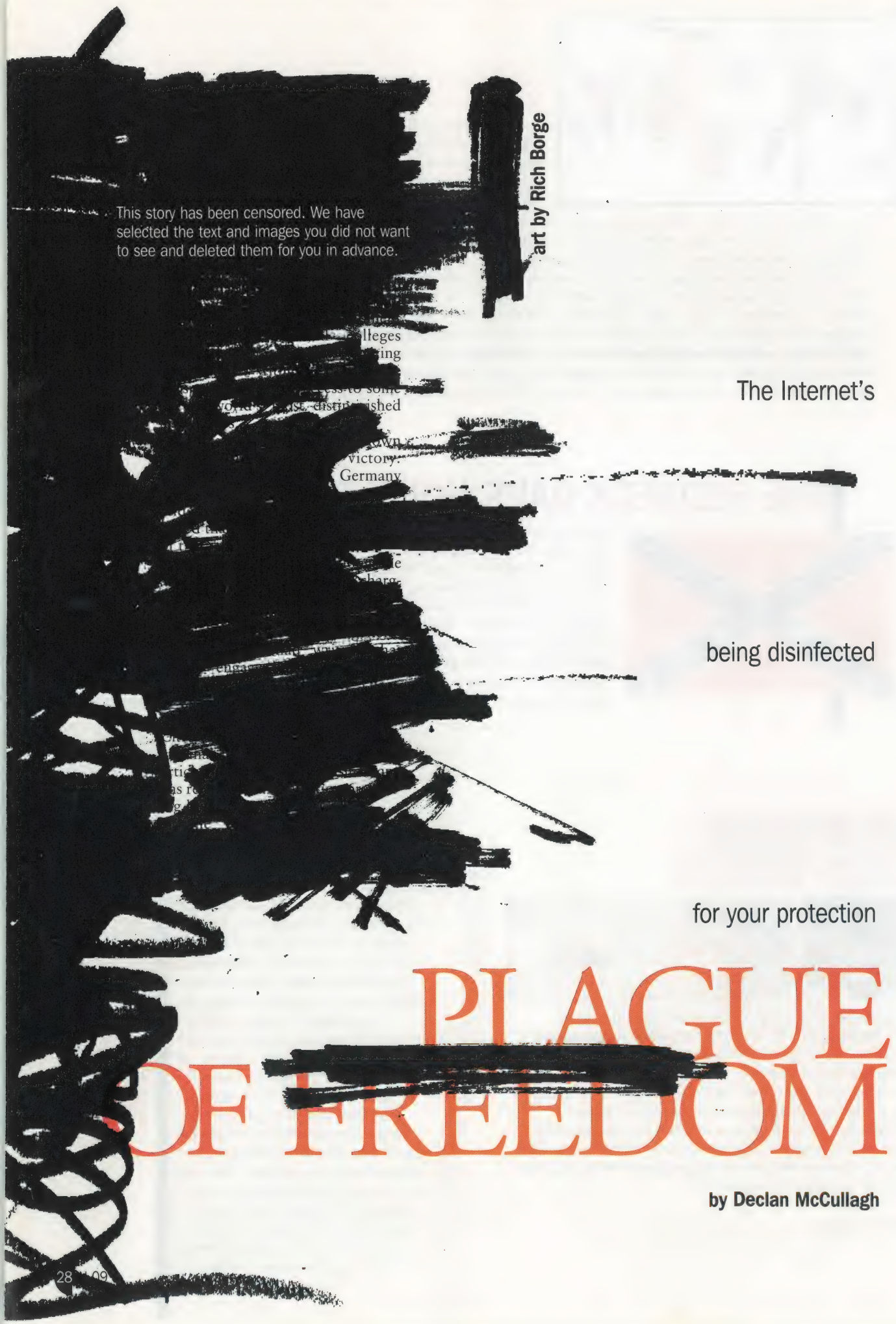
http://speckle.ncsl.nist.gov/-lorax/lunchcounter.html

It's not surprising that the virtual fare served on this site seems more nutritious than most of the garbage we put into our stomachs each day. No harried waitresses or nervous cashiers here. Just click on the "Place your order now" link and, in seconds, you'll receive a random visual lunch, complete with items such as "Elliott's AMAZING Grape BoysenBerry Juice Cocktail, a salami bagel and coconut-glazed doughnuts." The Internet Lunch Server is also better than a diner because you can send disappointing orders back and get another as many times as you want.

ANDREW ARROW'S BAD ADVICE PAGE

http://www1.pitt.edu/-sjsst32/

Unlike the surfeit of Ann Landers-like personal advice sites on the Internet, Andrew Arrow's Bad Advice Page actually solicits users to offer counsel rather than receive it. The thing about Andrew, however, is that he seeks (and posts) only the most rotten and preposterous responses imaginable. While the intricately poor advice offered by users are oft amusing, it's really Andrew's bizarrely *Jim's Journal*-like questions that stand out. "All my life, it seems, I've had trouble with staples," he fusses one week. "Sometimes they fold wrong, sometimes they don't go all the way through...though they still remain the single most effective fastening device I know of. How can I conquer them, and use it without personal injury or error?" Unfortunately, Andrew's last entry was made on March 18, 1996—a disappearance perhaps attributable to some of the site's bad advice: note the Nov. 20, 1995, third-place entry.



PLAGUE OF FREEDOM

by Declan McCullagh

BORGE

Call it an unlikely parable for the today's Internet.

Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year* isn't about cyberspace. Set in 1665, the book sketches a ghastly picture of a London under siege.

Defoe tells how rats from foreign ships have invaded the city, carrying with them the bubonic plague. Authorities resort to desperate measures, barricading families inside their homes in an attempt to halt the onslaught.

It doesn't work. "Setting watchmen thus to keep the people in was, first of all, not effectual, but that the people broke out, whether by force or by stratagem, even almost as often as they pleased," Defoe wrote.

So it is with the sprawling expanse of cyberspace in 1996. Governments around the globe are rushing to barricade their borders, dam the flow of foreign data and create a new world information order. For good reason: an uncensored 'net connection can be as deadly to a 20th-century government as the plague was three centuries ago.

And it may be just as infectious.

Governments realize this. After a banned French book appeared online, France began demanding that the European Union "start drafting international rules." Jordan installed an Internet screening facility to snoop for porn. China's Ministry of Public Security required all Internet users to register with the police. Singapore banned access to overseas sites that might "incite religious or political unrest." The United States passed the Communications Decency Act.

In June, the South Korean government joined its censor-happy counterparts after some North Korean propaganda appeared on the Web.

Seoul officials immediately warned the public against connecting to that Web site, run by a Canadian student, and tried to block access to the site. "We have yet to find a solution to protect South Koreans from the contamination of the Stalinist propaganda," said one government official, according to wire reports.

But Seungyoo Lee, a spokesperson for the South Korean government, downplays his government's desire to censor political information. Instead, he insists, South Korea really wants to censor porn. "Even elementary school pupils have their own computer in their rooms. They can easily connect to commercial Internet services. They can connect to any Web site. Our major concern is not North Korean publications—it's decency and sexual content," says Lee.

Lee points to the CDA as justification, calling it "a helpful and useful reference." Says Lee: "We are studying how to limit and restrict harmful contents, especially to children...I'm personally concerned with the Internet and watch the U.S. government and U.S. society's response to sexual materials on the Internet."

Or take the case of the world's most infamous—or at least the most avidly self-promoting—Holocaust revisionist and Nazi sympathizer, Ernst Zundel. Now living in Toronto, Zundel has spent the last decade fencing with the Simon Wiesenthal Center and other Jewish organizations.

Last fall he took his battle to the 'net. An ally in California cobbled together a "Zundelsite" on the Web that included Zundel's "Power Letters"—revisionist material that's illegal to read or distribute in many European countries. The German government responded by pressuring the state-owned Deutsche Telekom and some academic networks to block access to Zundel's U.S. Web site.

Days later, Zundel's Web site was mirrored by First Amendment supporters at several colleges around the United States, presenting the Germans with the unpalatable prospect of blocking access to some of the world's most distinguished universities.

Thwarted, they backed down and Zundel cried victory: "Germany is a basket case. Germany is a dictatorship as vicious as it was under Hitler." (Zundel quickly added that he remains "an admirer" of the Nazi dictator.)

Now one of Zundel's long-time adversaries, Sabina Citron, is charging defamation and has sued the Nazi apologist for over $3,500,000 (Canadian) in Ontario's general court. Zundel had written that Citron "engages in a parasitic extortion racket" and "would lie, cheat, or falsify information" to "keep the memory of the Holocaust alive." Citron alleges that Zundel "falsely and maliciously published a series of articles" on "the Zundelsite" and has requested an injunction preventing him from continuing.

The catch is that the "Zundelsite" resides in Santa Cruz, Calif., outside the jurisdiction of a Canadian court.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The most influential international body involved in cyber-rulemaking is the Group of Seven leading industrial nations. Truth be told, the G-7 is obscure outside of financial circles and is seen even inside them as becoming increasingly irrelevant in a global financial system dominated by multinational corporations, not by governments.

Yet the seven-member nations—the United States, Canada, Britain, Germany, France, Japan and Italy—have already started using the G-7 umbrella to engage in a sort of joint head-scratching about what to do with cyberspace.

In February, 1995, in Brussels, at a meeting called the "G-7 Ministerial Conference on the Information Society," the telecom honchos from G-7 nations and several smaller countries gathered to

A WHITE HOUSE END RUN

The Clinton administration is trying an end run around the U.S. Congress—by way of Europe.

Facing entrenched opposition on the Hill to its Clipper III key-escrow scheme and a widely criticized copyright bill, the White House is trying to sneak the two proposals in the Congressional back door by ramming them through international organizations this year. Then the treaties can be presented to the Senate in early 1997 for approval as a *fait accompli*.

The threat to the 'net is that senators could sign off on the treaty if other countries do first. The administration's spin will be predictable: This is necessary to ensure America's national security and our continued dominance of intellectual property. That is, we can't afford to be left out.

Opponents of the copyright bill, which slams online fair use rights, are worried. "The administration is going gangbusters behind international WIPO [World Intellectual Property Organization] negotiations," says one lobbyist allied with the Digital Future Coalition, a group that includes the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the American Library Association.

If the copyright language makes its way through WIPO, the United States "would be hard-pressed not to sign on and implement it here," the DFC lobbyist says.

The Clinton White House has been pushing this copyright boondoggle because the president relies on the financial support of Hollywood's music and entertainment intellectual property industry—and with California as an election-year battleground state, he's certain not to do anything that would upset his backers. The WIPO meets again in Geneva in early December.

The administration is pulling a similar stunt with encryption policy. Legislation is moving forward in both the House and the Senate to lift the ban on exporting strong crypto like Pretty Good Privacy that isn't espionage-enabled for government snoops.

The White House, flanked by a coterie from the NSA, FBI and CIA, remains staunchly opposed to the bills and condemned them in public hearings earlier this summer. The administration also released a draft of the Clipper III white paper that renewed the call for domestic key escrow.

At the same time, administration representatives have redoubled their lobbying efforts at Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development meetings—being held to discuss a nine-part international crypto framework.

"The U.S. is trying to bootstrap a domestic key escrow policy to persuade the Europeans to persuade the Americans that we need key escrow," says Marc Rotenberg, director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center. "I still hold out hope that the OECD won't buy in."

chat about online copyright, cultural pollution, universal access, free speech and encryption policies.

At least the principles were lofty. "While the rhetoric of the conference was progressive, there was no serious discussion of free expression or other human rights concerns," wrote one American who attended the event.

Instead, the G-7 nations said they were considering how to deal with inappropriate material on the 'net. Canada reminded the other countries that it wasn't as permissive as the United States in dealing with "hate-mongering materials," saying that when such publications appear online "they are much easier to obtain, but are more difficult to monitor and take action against." The European Union decried copyright pirates: "Some form of international cooperation is necessary to supplement the existing legal systems governing intellectual property rights." Saying the 'net is "not without risks," France stressed that cyberspace "must not result in a standardization in content, or a leveling of cultures."

Only Vice President Al Gore tossed a bone to cyber-rights advocates. "[Cyberspace] is about protecting and enlarging freedom of expression for all our citizens...Ideas should not be checked at the border," Gore said.

Gore didn't do this in a vacuum. "Our big victory at Brussels was that we pressured them enough so that Al Gore in his keynote address made a big point of stressing the importance of free speech on the Internet," says Ann Beeson of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Beeson should know—she's been one of the few cybersavvy activists who has been fighting globally for an unshackled Internet. Now a principal attorney on the ACLU's legal team challenging the Communications Decency Act, Beeson previously worked at Human Rights Watch and crafted a letter the group sent to Gore before the Brussels conference. Citing Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it said: "Everyone has the right...to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, regardless of frontiers.

Unfortunately, the only G-7 voices supporting this notion today are a silent chorus.

The G-7 information ministers met again in South Africa in May and plan to meet in Egypt later this year, but no international 'net-advocacy group has been tracking the proposals discussed at the meetings. U.S. cyberliberty groups have been preoccupied with the CDA battle and they have no international counterparts.

That's finally about to change. Two global 'net-alliances held their initial planning meetings at Internet conferences this summer in Canada.

The ACLU co-founded one group, the Global Internet Liberty Campaign. "We have to face the fact that while ultimately it's extraordinarily difficult for governments to control the 'net, they're going to try," says Barry Steinhardt, associate director of the ACLU. "The best thing that governments can do is to stay out if it."

Not so, says Bruce Taylor, the chief architect of the CDA and a professional cyber-scaremonger. The former Federal porn-prosecutor believes that "not all censorship is bad."

"Foreign countries have an obligation to restrict obscenity and child pornography on the Internet by the treaty of 1911," says Taylor. "It's an agreement between the states to cooperate and to use international laws to prosecute obscenity." And to Taylor, books and copies of *Penthouse* magazine can be obscene.

FUTURE REGULATIONS

David Post is a likeable, bearded fellow who once studied baboons in Africa and wears tennis shoes with his suits. Now the co-director of the Cyberspace Law Institute, Post is one of the few lawyers who's made a serious study of the international evolution of the 'net.

To Post, the 'net is at a fork in its development: The two paths are self-regulation or an international government crackdown.

"It's the central problem the 'net faces today," says Post. "How does it relieve itself of the conflicting claims of sovereigns whose power is based on geographical boundaries—something the 'net doesn't recognize?"

Eric Freedman, a constitutional law professor at Hofstra Law School, is anything but optimistic. Freedman remembers how governments already have crafted a complex constellation of little-known treaties and agreements governing everything from satellite placement to the world banking system and postal services.

"I'm worried that the governments are ahead of us," says Freedman. "There's a humongous potential to get absolutely screwed here...If 100 countries agreed on this, they could get this done in a week. It's easier for them to coordinate, agree and implement than it is for us to stop them from doing so."

That's why the ACLU/American Library Association lawsuit challenging the CDA is vital. If the Supreme Court upholds the law, Congress and the White House can craft international "decency" agreements for cyberspace. But if the high court slams the law as unconstitutional, Clinton would be barred from signing a CDA-type treaty. "It's a principle of constitutional law that any treaty has to conform to the Constitution," says Freedman.

A final victory in the CDA case would, in a sense, turn the United States into a safe haven for controversial content from all over the world.

Freedman urges 'netizens in every country to launch similar fights against government 'net-censorship. "Win as many national victories as possible to get ahead of the governments of the world," he says. "If the German or Australian supreme courts were to rule that freedom of speech principles apply to the 'net as they do to a newspaper, that would be very helpful."

In the near future, that's the best way to forestall the world information order. The first time a country proposes such a treaty, it has to die from lack of support.

But pressure to regulate the 'net will always exist and a new way of looking at cyberspace may have to emerge. Some precedents exist. Maritime law, for example, says that no single nation has jurisdiction over the oceans. Medieval Europe recognized a separate law for merchants that had its own judicial system. Antarctica is not governed by any single country's laws. The Catholic Church is a multinational institution that largely rules itself.

The Cyberspace Law Institute's Post argues for this model. "We should treat cyberspace as a distinct location and allow our own distinct legal and moral systems to evolve," he says.

He's right. As the 'net matures, no other solution will work.

Defoe described governments locking citizens inside their homes to no avail: "It was impossible for one man so to guard all the passages as to prevent the escape of people made desperate...And that which was still worse, those that did thus break out spread the infection farther."

The infection cyberspace spreads today is far more virulent than the bubonic plague. Anathema to government, the 'net carries the virus of freedom.

STORIES

Newspapers Rush to the Web, But Will Their Readers Follow?

By Steve Knopper

It will always be weird, no matter what anybody says, to use a laptop in an airport bathroom stall. It will never be comfortable curling up in bed, on a rainy Sunday morning, with a muffin, coffee and a Gateway 2000 P566 Pentium Processor. And it's hard to envision your grandmother printing out *Family Circus* on her bubble jet printer and posting it on the fridge.

Hold off on the obituary for the printed newspaper. "The truth is everybody is scrambling to get on the Web because of a fear that this will be the next big thing and nobody wants to get left behind," says *Washington Post* media reporter Howard Kurtz, author of the 1993 book *Media Circus*. "I certainly don't think it's going to replace the ink-on-paper version of what we do."

See STOP on p36

STOP from p35

But something's happening. Kurtz' paper, along with *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today* and 1,111 other commercial newspapers, is online. *Editor & Publisher*, the industry's trade magazine, reports that 750 papers were online in early 1996, up from 100 in early 1995. Many are like the small *Danville* (Va.) *Register and Bee*, which simply reprints its top daily stories on the Web and, in a long historical page, boasts that it announced the fall of Richmond in 1865. A few are like the *Raleigh* (N.C.) *News & Observer* and the *San Jose* (Calif.) *Mercury News*, Internet mainstays that link readers to local entertainment guides, in-depth news statistics and relevant Web sites.

The *Mercury News*' Mercury Center, along with the *News & Observer*'s Nando Times, have been trying for the past few years to stay near the Internet's leading edge, wherever that might be. For the most part, though, the industry has been slow to react to the Web's booming popularity and the financial growth of online services America Online and CompuServe. Some media critics, including Jon Katz of *Rolling Stone* and *Wired*, have chastised the industry for this—readers have been consistently getting information, their own way, from computers, compact discs and cable television. Meanwhile, newspapers arrogantly insisted the lost readers would eventually come back.

Today, finally, enthusiastic editors are

dumping staff and cash into their Web sites. The *Chicago Tribune*, for example, has hired a three-reporter staff to chronicle city news to supplement the traditional coverage from its paper cousin. *Internet Tribune* has dispatched teams of college students and free-lance writers, including this reporter, to canvass the city's endless rows of bars, restaurants and nightclubs for a comprehensive Web (and AOL) "Fun Guide." But to Steven Ross, an associate professor at Columbia University, who conducts studies of online print media, these ideas are too little, too late, to stem the industry's inevitable decline.

"A newspaper delivered on newsprint—that's a dying species," says Ross, who runs Columbia's New Media Workshop and has been a free-lance reporter for almost two decades. "Printing on slivers of dead trees—five or 10 years out, that's over. Newspapers insist on cheapening content at a time when the marketplace demands more content.

"If the newspapers don't do it, activist groups, right-wing groups and churchgoing groups are going to do it," he says. "I'm watching an industry sink."

In Ross' view, newspapers are guilty of relentlessly cutting quality while trying to boost the bottom line and look good on Wall Street. Profit-minded businessmen now run newspapers instead of traditional public-minded newsmen, Ross says. The industry's recent problems—the *Houston Post* and *New York Newsday* closing, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* downsizing, the high newsprint costs forcing papers to cut resources—have come in part, Ross says, because managers still haven't properly gauged the Internet and new media. Pretty soon, he says, high-tech gadgets such as a flat, light computer connected to the television cable, will render newspapers' portability edge obsolete.

Many newspaper editors, though, say Ross' views are overly apocalyptic. Yes, they say, editors will have to adapt to readers' changing habits and growing technology. But people won't abandon their Sunday-morning reading habits. "I don't think you'll see the death of the printed newspaper for a long, long time," says Lem Lloyd, new media director for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, which runs the Web's *Pioneer Planet*, "You don't want to have to sit upright and move your computer wherever you want to be. Most people, whenever they do anything on the Internet, like to print it out—which tells you something."

Lloyd and Ross agree that on the Web, a newspaper has to tell stories a different way. For one thing, the Web has an unlimited space—or "news hole," as print journalists call it—for information. Also, the Web can link readers to first-hand sources. For example, Ross says, if New York City Mayor Rudolf Giuliani gives a budget speech, the *New York Daily News* will likely run a few excerpts and a few reaction quotes. *The New York Times* will likely run longer excerpts and more reaction. A Web site, however, can directly link you to a page containing the entire budget. Beyond that, Ross suggests, they can link to a SimCity site, where users can play a game to figure out how the budget works.

At the *Chicago Tribune*, editors have already begun that process. A recent story about homicide statistics, in the print newspaper, ran a small graphic with bits of maps. At the *Tribune*'s Web site, Chicagoans could click on various parts of the map and read statistics about crime in their specific neighborhoods. John Lux, the *Tribune*'s online editor, says this kind of approach can help illuminate a complex issue—but it can't fully substitute for reading a printed newspaper.

The traditional paper, he says, is "a timesaver, oddly enough. If you have half-an-hour it may be smarter for you to let the editors of the *Tribune* tell you what the top things are you have to know that day. One of the problems with the Internet is the sheer volume—which is one of the reasons that the newspaper brand on a 'net site is going to be a powerful lure. People are in the habit of trusting editors of *The New York Times* or the *Chicago Tribune* or the *San Jose Mercury*

News so they know that they're not going to waste their time if they go to that site."

In fact, traditional newspapers' Web sites are among the most popular sites on the Internet. Newslink, a site run by the *American Journalism Review*, says users get news information from *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, CNN Interactive and the *Nando Times* more than any other Web sources. This is partially because of Lux' theory—readers trust newspaper editors who are schooled in making informational decisions. It's also partly because newspapers' Web sites, unlike their printed counterparts, are refreshingly interested in trying new approaches. Where print editors wouldn't think of revamping a traditional nameplate or page designs, Internet editors get away with new, and sometimes radical, ideas. Of course, some sites are just as stodgy as columnist James Kilpatrick.

These are some of the more interesting papers on the Web:

—*The Wall Street Journal* **(http://update.wsj.com).** The day's headlines and stories, of course, plus a personal finance center, where you can link to a May 5, 1995, *Journal* article titled "How to Save Big Bucks When Buying a New Car." Also, breaking business news delivered regularly to your e-mail address. The *Journal* site will soon be accessible by subscription only ($29/year for print subscribers, $49/year for non-print subscribers)

—*The New York Times* **(http://www.nytimes.com/).** Daily articles link to newsgroup-style bulletin boards, with reasonably intellectual debates on a wide range of issues—including new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and whether the Seattle SuperSonics had a chance in hell against the Chicago Bulls. You can even do the famous crossword puzzle online.

—*Chicago Tribune* **(http://www.chicago.tribune.com/).** The "interactive center" features computer-assisted reporting by the *Tribune*'s new online reporting staff, including in-depth stories about crime.

—*Chicago Sun-Times* **(http://www.suntimes.com/).** The simple approach. The best feature is every movie review Roger Ebert has ever written, searchable by title, subject, quality and year.

—*USA Today* **(http://www.usatoday.com/).** Short, low-depth stories just like the familiar paper.

—*San Jose Mercury News* **(http://www.sjmercury.com/).** Reconfigured stories from the newspaper, mostly about computers and coffee, plus classified ads and a pretty decent archive.

—Nando Times ***(http://www.nando.net/).*** Also ***Raleigh News & Observer* (http://www.nando.net/nao/).** The national version has big headlines and a good employment service for openings around the country. The Raleigh version's "Go Guide" has solid consumer resources for local entertainment, eating and parks.

—*Telluride* **(Colo.)** ***Daily Planet* (http://www.telluride gateway.com/).** Happy, happy, happy news about hiking, climbing, fishing, golfing and how wonderfully affordable homes are in beautiful mountainous Telluride.

—*Danville* **(Va.)** ***Register & Bee* (http://www.gamewood.net/).** Weather links! Plus Civil War history.

—Good newspaper links and databases: ***Editor & Publisher*, http://www.mediainfo.com/ephome/npaper/nphtm/online.htm; Newspapers Online, http://gopher.uconn.edu/~jpa94001/papers.html; The Electric Library,** which has 150 newspapers and 800 magazines, including the *Los Angeles Times* and *Newsday*, **http://www.elibrary.com/**; and the *American Journalism Review*'s ***Newslink*,** which ranks readers' top Web news sources, **http://www.newslink.org/**.

. . . . . .

Will Web newspapers ever replace printed newspapers? Ross says masters of the Web, or of some new technology, could easily step in to inherit newsgathering from today's barely competent newspaper managers. So far, nobody's making money on the Web—but that was true for television's first 10 years, Ross says. Still many papers won't be so patient; as ad revenues on the Web continue to disappoint, many papers are charging or plan to start charging readers for access to portions of their site

But most online editors say a total shift from newsprint to computer screen, if it ever comes, is much further down the road. Newspapers are using their Web sites to gradually lure "Generation X" readers, who supposedly are much more interested in Web surfing than page-turning back to the fold. Older readers are still addicted to the luxury of ink-stained fingers and doing crossword puzzles with pens. The Web version, editors say, will continue to supplement the printed version.

"For a paper like the *Washington Post*, **(http://www.washingtonpost.com)** which is very hard to get outside of D.C./Maryland/Virginia, this provides a pretty cheap way to achieve national distribution without having to pay for trucks and printing presses," says Kurtz. "For a smaller or midsize paper, it's basically a way to connect with your community, particularly with people who like interactivity."

Still, Kurtz says, with no one really sure how to make a profit from the Web, our beloved paper and ink friend looks like he'll withstand this latest threat. In other words, don't worry: Your bathroom reading habits are safe for a while.

"Most people, whenever they do anything on the Internet, like to print it out—which tells you something" — Lem Lloyd, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

UNDERGROUND

Visit Underground Online, the webbed companion to *Internet Underground.*

Stories you won't see in the print version.

Music from independent bands.

All the URLs from this issue.

Links to hundreds of reviewed Web sites.

http://www.underground-online.com

Organized (Chaos)

by Alex Gordon

Bringing Order to Your Surfing Through Bookmarking Programs

As I sit down to write this story, I look around my desk and think, "Isn't it ironic that *I'm* writing a story about organized browsing." Bad Alanis Morissette references aside, (memo to myself: stop listening to the so-called alternative radio station) I don't just need programs that help me organize Web sites I've been to; I wish someone would develop something to help me organize my cluttered desk.

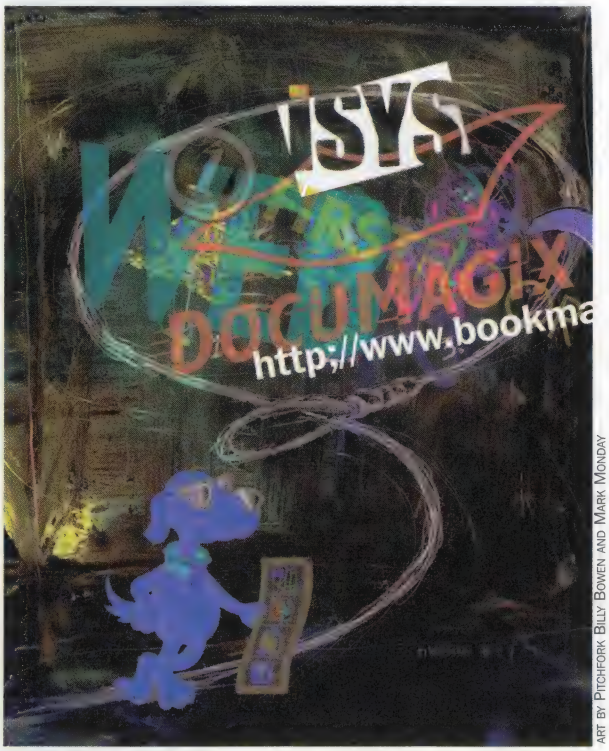
The newest bookmarking programs—for lack of a better catch-all, that's what I'll refer to them as—offer many neat bells and whistles from offline browsing to Web site monitoring. Even though finding info that you once saw on the Web is relatively easy by doing a search with Yahoo!, Lycos or AltaVista, it's most satisfying to have a storehouse of your favorite picks close at hand.

For purposes of this story, I picked six of the more interesting bookmarking programs available today. Most browsers do have built-in bookmarking applications, but the programs reviewed here are exciting additions due to their pure focus on actually enhancing your organizational skills.

It's amazing how lazy I can be when I surf sometimes. The very act of bookmarking a site seems a monumental effort. If you sympathize, you'll love the **ZooWorks Personal Edition**, Hitachi's new effort at taming the jungle of cyberspace. ZooWorks works within your browser as a search engine. All you need to remember is a vague detail of any site you've ever visited and ZooWorks will pull it up. You can search by keyword or date. You can also organize URLs into folders so you won't have to search your entire database each time you want to find popular sites. Another file management technique also allows you to label sites "confidential" so your boss or spouse won't be able to follow your virtual footsteps.

HotPage from DocuMagix operates like a file cabinet built into your browser. Considering my ineptitude at filing, the deck was loaded against HotPage. A major asset of the program is its installation of a command right into your Netscape toolbar that allows users to simply drag down a menu for immediate filing of a URL. From the menu you can also "HotPrint" a Web page, essentially making a virtual hard copy of the page that you can later read while offline. If you're not in the mood to file the instant you save a page, URLs go into an "In Box" (just like the cluttered ones on my desk) for future filing. Another feature allows you to combine HotPrinted pages with live links to other Windows documents created with Word or Excel. While HotPage may work well if you're organized in the real world, I found it cumbersome; all too soon the virtual file cabinets and In Box became hopelessly cluttered up.

Like the TV show of the same name that some lame brain at *Nick at Nite* pulled from the schedule this year, **Dragnet** from OnBase is solid, workmanlike and no-nonsense. This is bookmarking at its very best, simplistic cataloging and categorizing of one's favorite Web sites. While it may not live up to the hyperbolic subtitle "the Ultimate Net Address Book," Dragnet is easy to use from the get-go, employing a simple drag-and-drop interface not unlike the original and oft-copied Mac OS. Other features included are a search feature for your bookmarks and the ability to make hotlist windows for your favorite URLs. The only drawback is that the product is not fully integrated with your browser, meaning extra mouse clicks between programs.



ART BY PITCHFORK BILLY BOWEN AND MARK MONDAY

As faithful as good ol' Rover, DataViz's **WebBuddy** aims to be your browser's "best friend." If you have a big monitor, you'll love WebBuddy's easy access toolbar, which makes bookmarking a breeze. For smaller monitors, you can choose to use WebBuddy Central, just a separate program that results in more mouse clicks. Beyond the straightforward bookmarking function, WebBuddy offers some interesting features. Rather than fetching your pipe, slippers and the evening paper, WebBuddy has the ability to retrieve pages and sites for offline browsing. You can even schedule the program to download sites at off-peak times. Additionally, WebBuddy allows you to convert Web pages into Word documents. While WebBuddy was definitely not a "dog" of a program, at times it was ploddingly slow—but that may have been more a result of its beta status than anything else.

The granddaddy of all bookmarking programs, however, is **SmartBookmarks** from FirstFloor. SmartBookmarks 2.0 starts with the simple bookmarking premise familiar to those users of the FirstFloor's Smartmarks

plug-in for Netscape. In the latest version, a bunch of new features makes it simply the best program for organizing your browsing. For instance, you can now choose to monitor sites with "agents" that will check URLs at a pre-determined time (say start-up) to see if any new info has been added to the pages. I use the agents to see if there's any new news at the Camp Nebagamon or *Michigan Daily* alumni sites. The agents also can retrieve the sites they check for offline browsing. Another great innovation is a built-in search feature that allows you to choose numerous directories to comb the Web. These searches can be saved in the program, allowing you to run them again and again to see if Yahoo! has added any new *X-Files* sites. On top of it all, SmartBookmarks is fully integrated with Netscape's and Microsoft's browsers, making it the easiest to use of all the products tested.

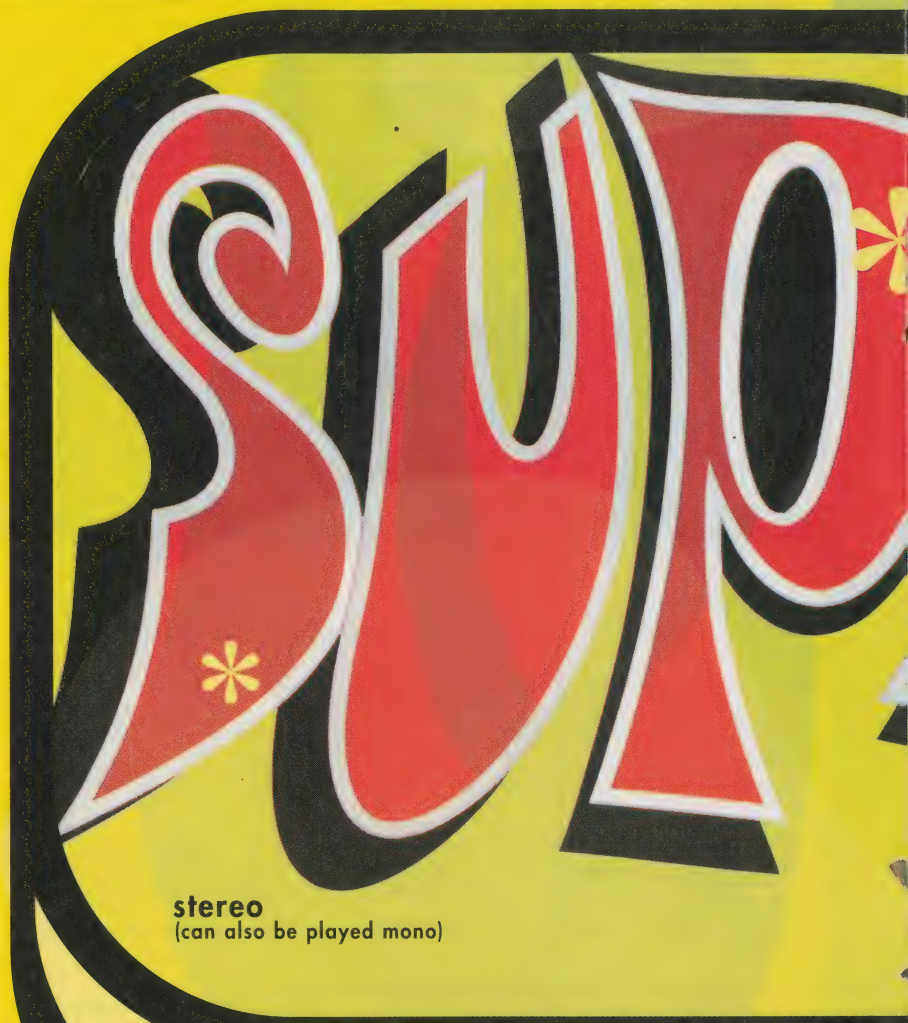
Hindsite, so the saying goes, is 20/20, and that's the premise of ISYS's entry to the bookmarking market. The program works on the same premise as Zooworks by keeping a searchable record of every site you've visited. The query feature of the search is quite advanced with "and," "or" and "but not" options. For non-Booleans, there's a plain English search option. One shortcoming of Hindsite is that you have to manually update the index of sites you've visited. While you only have to press a button to do so, it's an extra step nonetheless.

Nobody likes a smarty pants, yet it's hard to resist Grasp Information Corporation's **Know-It-All**. While the name may imply omniscience, the program can only know as much as the user. So say you were browsing the Web, collecting Mentos information. Rather than bookmark all of the Mentos sites you've come to, Know-It-All lets you grab specific snippets from the sites. All you have to do is highlight the passage you want to save and click on the category where you want to save it on the toolbar. If, when going through these snippets, that are on pages in the program like little Post-It Notes, you want to revisit a site, you just use the "source link" option. Know-It-All also allows you to grab snippets from any other source such as e-mail or newsgroup postings. You can also edit snippets and use them to create new documents. While the program has a high "gee-whiz factor," in terms of overall usefulness, cutting and pasting seems a lot simpler.

After testing all six programs, I've chosen to continue using SmartBookmarks with ZooKeeper. I'll also keep Hindsite as a back-up. However, I encourage you to download the programs' free test betas and try them for yourself, since each program is based on a different model, and will speak to different peoples' strengths. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to dig out a missing invoice from my desk.

	FirstFloor SmartBookmarks 2.0	ISYS Hindsite 2.04
[Works With]	All browsers; Windows only.	Netscape only; Windows only.
[URL]	http://www.firstfloor.com	http://www.rmii.com/isys_dev/
[Price]	$24.95	$39.95
[Metaphor]	On one level, simple bookmarks. On another level, agents traveling around the Web spying on sites.	Your hindsight, or the ability to go back to sites you should have bookmarked in the first place.
[Best Features]	Fully integrated with Navigator and Internet Explorer. Agents search sites for updates and display results, saving you the time of going to each site. Offline browsing capabilities. Lowest priced.	Records every word of every site you visit. Plain English or Boolean search options. Tree diagram visually maps out your browsing.
[Drawbacks]	Occasionally crashes, along with your buggy browser.	You have to manually update the index of sites you've visited.
[Stars]	★★★★½	★★★½

DocuMagix HotPage 1.0	Dataviz WebBuddy beta	OnBase Dragnet .95 beta	Grasp Know-It-All 1.01	Hitachi Zooworks Personal Edition 1.0
Netscape only; Windows only.	All browsers; Windows and Mac.	All browsers; Windows and Mac.	All browsers; Windows only.	All browsers; Windows only.
http://www.documagix.com/	http://www.dataviz.com	http://www.onbasetech.com	http://www.grasp.com	http://www.zoosoft.com
$79.00* *(an online version is available for $39 at the site)	$49.00* *(cost at press time, may change with final release)	$39.95* *(Mac only, cost at press time; Windows versions were in beta)	$99.99* *(List price. Introductory price at press time was $49.99)	$39.99
A virtual file cabinet right on your computer.	Your best friend, ol' Webster. He's a sunglass-wearing dog who fetches Web sites for you.	Based around a detective motif, more for the name than the functionality.	Omniscient Post-It Notes.	A zookeeper taming the wild World Web.
Comes packaged with a version of Netscape. HotPrint feature allows you to view documents offline. Becomes a command right in your Netscape browser. Edit and combine pages with Word and Excel documents.	Tool bar for easy access. Simple bookmarking. Downloads pages and sites for offline browsing. Allows you to schedule when to download sites. Converts sites into Word documents.	Simple interface. Easy to use. Search feature lets you find URLs among your bookmarks. You can import bookmarks from Smartmarks or Microsoft favorites.	Allows you to collect snippets of specific info from a number of sources. You can also revisit the source material of that snippet (i.e., the original site).	Automatically records every URL you visit. Searchable by keyword or date. Works as a screen within your browser. Confidential feature lets you hide certain sites you've visited.
Sometimes cumbersome and unintuitive. Allows URLs and pages to pile up just like in a real file cabinet.	Some features were very slow. Beta bugs. Toolbar is cumbersome with smaller monitors.	Not fully integrated with browsers, resulting in extra mouse clicks between programs.	Not very intuitive. Is it really easier than cutting and pasting?	Cannot index words contained solely in graphics, such as the Yahoo! logo.
★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★½	★★★★



SOUNDS OF

COMBING VIRTUAL BINS

There's a certain charm about ancient vinyl recordings—we used to just call them "records"—that will never be matched by the sanitary ones and zeros of a compact disc. But while the run-of-the-mill vinyl collector will chew your ear off about the supposedly superior sonic qualities of the groove (no doubt while enjoying a classic Led Zeppelin cut), there are a few of us out here who know the true value of vinyl. It's not the sound quality or the equipment that makes vinyl our medium of choice—it's the fact that the world's worst performances can be found almost exclusively within the folds of a 12-inch cardboard jacket.

It's not that CDs are unfunny—you can even get William Shatner's classic *Transformed Man* on a CD. But there's a vast universe of lesser-known recordings out there that will never see the light of a laser beam. From rip-off albums by unknown bands trying to cash in on the latest musical trend to lavish productions featuring well-known celebrities performing that year's "greatest hits," you could probably fill a dump the size of Los Angeles with worthless vinyl (and we're not even counting disco). The '60s and '70s seem to have been a time when record producers were particularly inclined to take the most incredibly bad ideas for an album and bring them to fruition. Was the buying public really too naive to recognize the difference between a real Beatles album and something by a group called The Brothers Four? Did we love actors like Telly Savalas and Shatner enough that we had to have them on both our stereos and TVs? At a time when the phrase "original artist" had yet to enter our vocabulary, the answer seems to have been "yes."

SOME TOP 10 HITS!!!

My fascination with aural oddities began eight years ago when I stumbled upon a bright green Jane Morgan record called *Fresh Flavor: A New Approach to the Big Hits* at a thrift store in Port Jefferson, N.Y. Figuring I had nothing to lose, I surrendered my 25 cents and headed home. Only moments after I laid the needle on the first track, a cover of the Rascals' "Good Lovin'" featuring an incredible big-band arrangement, I was hooked. I had discovered a whole genre of music that was not only vastly more entertaining than the album-oriented dreck my friends listened to, but was also cheap and readily available at garage sales and thrift stores all over town. I'd discovered the Bad Record.

Recently, I decided to enshrine some of the more endearing artists in my collection on the Web. **Frank's Vinyl Museum (http://www.searchlight.com/frank/vinyl)** is my humble way of giving a little back to the Internet community for the countless hours of entertainment the 'net has provided me. Shortly after the site went up, I started receiving e-mail from like-minded collectors telling me all about *their* off-the-wall collections. So I took a trip around the Web to see what I could dig up, and to get a little insight into the motivations of my Bad-Record cohorts along the way. The results were no less than fascinating.

Cocktail music pioneer Esquivel has enjoyed a rebirth in the last two years, but Enoch Light's experimental sounds and over-the-top productions are just as endearing to those of us who are part of the "Space Age Bachelor Pad" revival. Light is the centerpiece of Robbie Baldock's **Spaced Out: The Enoch Light WWW Site (http://www.cybersurf.co.uk/rcb/light/)**, where I found everything I always wanted to know about this composer, including a detailed biography and a complete discography in a handy table format. Baldock inherited his love for Light from his father, who was apparently one of those "bachelors" who bought albums like *Spaced Out* in its heyday. After searching in vain for Light resources on the Web, Baldock decided to create his own Light site. Even I was surprised to learn that Light had been making records since 1957 and was responsible for producing such legends as Tony Mattola and Dick Hyman.

The Odd Music Page (http://www.amexpub.com/jbatutis/noddmusic/oddmusic.

AS SEEN ON THE 'NET!!!

THE INTERNET FOR VINYL TREASURES

by Frank LaRosa

html) contains mostly CDs, but curator Joe Batutis definitely has the ear (and the eye) of the Bad Record collector. I found over 30 of the most unusual titles I'd ever encountered on Batutis' beautifully designed pages. If you want to groove to the sounds of blaxploitation star Rudy Ray Moore, or just settle down with *Sound Effects of Godzilla*, this is the site to visit. Batutis told me that his favorite disc is *Quincy Jones Explores the Music of Henry Mancini*. "I love the CD for many reasons," says Batutis, "not the least of it is the whole concept of Rahsaan Roland Kirk doing Henry Mancini (including great flute playing/scatting...he does both at the same time!)." After viewing this site, I might just change my mind about the cultural value of the compact disc.

The next site I found was **Awful Music** (**http://redwood.northcoast.com/~shojo/Awful/awf.html**). Even though it only features one record (updated "every month or two, or whenever I get to it," says the Webmaster), you'll be impressed. The site also contains intriguing links to oddities like The Mr. T Page and The Dark Side of Pez.

California DJ Jack Diamond is a committed collector of weird vinyl, and he's been diligent enough to provide us with a Web page showing over 50 of his prized platters at his site, **Jack Diamond's House of Games** (**http://www.cygnus.com/misc/kfjc/diamond/**). Jack seems to be more interested in the cover art than the music itself, but in the world of wacky record collecting, the covers are often the best part. Make sure you click on each link to see the crazy pictures. I hope Diamond will consider adding some thumbnail images in the future to make navigation easier. He does divide his collection up into genres, which was helpful (I enjoyed the psychedelic section the most). "Record collecting is no mere hobby, no leisurely innocuous diversion," says Diamond. "It's a feverish passion bordering on dementia, driving those under its influence to irrational, compulsive and sometimes fanatical extremes." Amen.

Surfing over to Germany, I found a couple of interesting records at **Stereo de Luxe** (**http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~cicada/**), including a photo of the *Barbarella* soundtrack album and something called *Moog Groove* that I actually have in my own collection (it was given to me by a friend who purchased it in Paris).

The granddaddy of the exotic music movement seems to be **Space Age Bachelor Pad Music** (**http://www.users.interport.net/~joholmes/index.html**). My favorite part of this site was something called "The American Gallery of Exotic Album Covers," a page which delivers about two dozen mind-boggling examples. The scan of Si Zenther's *The Swingin' Eye!!!* had me calling my colleagues away from their desks to gape with me—what *were* they taking in those days? With a wealth of Esquivel information and a long list of links to related sites, this is a great place to start your record-collecting journey.

Irreverent New Jersey radio station WFMU is a cultural center of the recorded weird. FMU jock Irwin Chisud first came to my attention as the author of the liner notes on *Golden Throats,* the breakthrough compilation album that's responsible for the current surge of interest in William Shatner's aborted musical career (you haven't lived if you haven't heard the Kirk version of "Mr. Tambourine Man"). **WFMU** (**http://www.wfmu.org/**) has an extensive collection of tasteless musical resources for your exploration. Don't forget to cast your vote for the worst pop music song of all time (I had a hard time choosing between Terry Jacks' "Seasons in the Sun" and Bo Donaldson & the Heywoods' "Billy, Don't Be a Hero").

And if you really *haven't* heard the aforementioned William Shatner recording, report directly to the **James T. Kirk Sing-a-long Page** (**http://www.ama.caltech.edu/users/mrm/kirk.html**) where you'll get an eyeful (and an earful) from the man himself. Don't forget to follow the links for more ridiculous recordings by Kirk's shipmates Spock (Leonard Nimoy), Scotty (James Doohan) and Uhura (Nichelle Nichols).

For the die-hard among you who can never get enough, drop by the **Exotica Mailing List** page (**http://www.swcp.com/lazlo/Lists/Exotica.html**) and add your name to the growing list of the obsessed. Then dust off your turntable, arm yourself with a thrift store list and get hunting! O

re-

member that *New Yorker* cartoon with the two canines sitting behind a computer terminal—"On the Internet, nobody knows that you're a dog?" Well, that sort of magical anonymity the Internet offers is increasingly a problem for business interests that are trying to commercialize the Information Superhighway.

Think about it. Although anonymity might be nice for a few college pranksters or a whistle-blower trying to file a complaint with the OSHA, most people using the Internet like to know the identity of the person or organization with which they are communicating. If you are trying to do business on the Internet, a person's name isn't just something that's nice to have—it is an essential ingredient if you need to enforce the provisions of a contract.

For more than a year, Web sites using the Netscape "secure" Commerce Server have had a digital ID nailed to their door. The ID contains the name of the company with which you are doing business, and is digitally signed so that it can't be forged. Originally developed by RSA Data Security, the electronic ID card business was spun off in May 1995 to a Silicon Valley start-up named VeriSign. Other funding for VeriSign came from VISA International, Mitsubishi and big names in the computer security field like Fischer International.

by Simson L. Garfinkel

FALSE Positives & Forged IDENTITIES:

Can VeriSign's Digital Signatures Guarantee That You Are Who You Say You Are?

art by Dave Plunkert

VeriSign's Server Certificates, as the Web IDs are called, are a good gig. The IDs cost $295 each, are sold directly by the company over the Internet and need to be renewed every year for $99. But VeriSign wants more: Now it is out to make its trademarked "Digital ID" the driver's license of cyberspace. Just like a bar carding you to check your age, or a car rental firm checking your ID to get your permanent address, VeriSign hopes that cybermalls and shops will soon be asking you to present your Digital ID when you step into their electronic establishments.

We're VeriSign: Trust Us

If you have ever used Netscape Navigator, then you have a relationship of electronic trust with VeriSign. That's because VeriSign's public key (see sidebar) is built into every copy of Navigator that's ever been shipped.

Netscape Communications used to brag about this fact. The implication was that having a single key somehow added a level of security and assurance to doing business on the Internet. The idea was that if you were looking at a "secure" Web site—that is, if you were using Netscape's proprietary encryption system to exchange secret information over the Internet—and you wanted to verify the authenticity of the organization with which you were communicating, you could simply select the menu "View Document Info."

Try it right now. Go to the URL **https://www.vineyard.net/** and pick View Document Info. You'll probably see the message, "This is a secure document that uses a medium-grade encryption key suited for US export (RC4-Export, 128 bit with 40 secret)." You'll also notice that the document is signed with a certificate belonging to Vineyard.NET, Inc., Vineyard Haven, Mass., US (the Web site in my basement). Look further, and you'll notice that the certificate was issued by the Secure Data

Server Certificate Authority, RSA Data Security, Inc., U.S. That's because in mid-May, I paid VeriSign $295 on my credit card and bought myself a Web server certificate.

Hey, wait a second! What's going on? If I bought the certificate from VeriSign, how come it has RSA Data Security's name on it?

I posed this question to Stratton Sclavos, VeriSign's president & CEO. It's an important question, because under VeriSign's own policies, when a company changes its name, its certificates are supposed to be automatically revoked and the company is forced to get new certificates under its new operating name. Why then, I asked Sclavos, is VeriSign appearing to break its own rule, and use a key that belongs to another organization?

"The RSA Secure Server is what we issue our certificates under," he said. "The future versions of the Navigator that are in beta right now will include VeriSign CA (certificate authority) roots."

Apparently, there are simply so many copies of Netscape Navigator 1.0 and 2.0 on the Internet right now, that it would be impractical for VeriSign to start issuing certificates under a new key or a new name. If they change their master key, all of those millions of copies of Netscape Navigator won't be able to go into secure cryptographic mode.

This dilemma neatly illustrates the single biggest complaint that's been levied against VeriSign to date: The company was created to be a monopoly for Internet identification, and it has largely been acting as one—making up its own rules, expecting others to abide by them and then breaking its rules when it sees fit.

Over the past year, there have been persistent rumors that VeriSign has been a difficult company to do business with—to put it mildly. Privately, companies have said that VeriSign has been slow to renew keys for the Netscape Commerce Server (which, remember, expires every year). Another rumor is that the company has asked for more than the publicly stated $99 renewal fee. But in every case, critics have been unwilling to speak on the record to the press. Why? Possibly, because VeriSign holds the master key. If VeriSign doesn't renew a company's certificate, then that company's secure Web server stops working. Circumstances like these put VeriSign in a very powerful bargaining position.

But with the advent of Netscape's Navigator 3.0, the VeriSign monopoly has been broken. Unlike previous versions of Navigator, which only supported a single Certificate Authority, Navigator 3.0 allows you to have as many CAs as you wish. The program comes out of the box with several different master certificates embedded inside it: AT&T Research, AT&T, RSA Secure Server, CommerceNet, MCI Mall, Netscape Test, RSA Commercial and two keys for VeriSign.

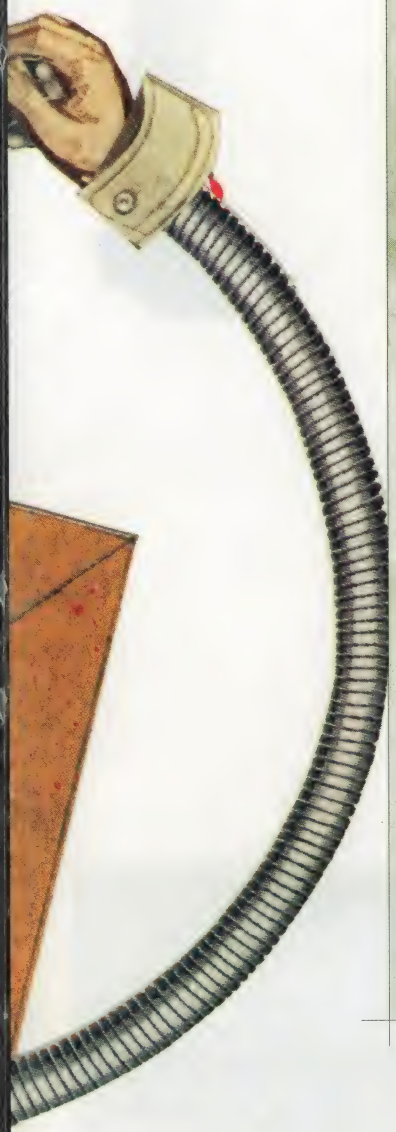
The Digital ID That Doesn't

The real hoopla for the second half of this year isn't going to be certificates for Web servers and organizations, but for users. It's these certificates that VeriSign is calling its Digital IDs.

To create a Digital ID, all you need to do is click into VeriSign's Digital ID Center (**http://digitalid.verisign.com/**). After you answer a few questions and click on some of the links, a special (and undocumented) piece of HTML will be downloaded into your copy of Netscape Navigator 3.0 that will cause your program's cryptographic wheels to start spinning.

From the outside, it will look like your copy of Navigator has crashed. But what's really happening is that it's searching for 100-digit prime numbers that will be used to create your secret and public key. Once these keys are created, the secret key is stored in a file on your hard disk—optionally encrypted with a pass phrase of your choice. The public key is both stored on your hard disk and a copy is sent to VeriSign's master computer where it is signed by VeriSign's secret key and sent back to you. Congratulations, you now have a Digital ID.

If a Web site wants you to "sign your name" with your Digital ID, your browser should pop up a window and show you a list of certificates that you can send. What happens next is kind of interesting. The Web site sends you a random



number. Your Web browser signs this number with your secret key. Your browser then sends the signed number, your public key and your Digital ID certificate to the Web site. At the other end of the connection, the Web site verifies your signature on the random number with your public key and then it verifies VeriSign's signature on your Digital ID. Finally, it checks to make sure that the public key you provided is the same as the public key on the Digital ID. If all of these checks pass, then you must be you.

The point to having Digital IDs is that they're supposed to be much more secure, more flexible and more powerful than the usernames and passwords that many Web sites, from *HotWired* to *The New York Times*, are using for identification. Here are some of the stated advantages:

- Instead of having a different password (and possibly username) for each site, you need only one Digital ID. If you decide to protect your secret key with a password, you get the same password with every Web site and that password never travels over the Internet.
- Since your Digital ID carries your e-mail address, you don't have to type it in. Even better, the Web site doesn't have to e-mail you a username and password to the e-mail address you provide in order to establish that it's legitimate.
- Because your public key is a real RSA cryptographic public key, people can use it to send you encrypted e-mail over the Internet. Indeed, support for encrypted e-mail is planned for future versions of Netscape Navigator.

As part of the publicity campaign to hype its Digital IDs, VeriSign gave out its first to Marc Andreessen, author of the original Mosaic program, cofounder of Netscape and currently Netscape's vice president of technology.

Search through VeriSign's Web site (or simply jump to **http://www.verisign.com/pr/pr_qnama.htm**) and you'll find a spiffy question-and-answer session with Andreessen, including the boy-wonder's pouting photograph and the proud legend, "DIGITAL ID HOLDER NUMBER: 1."

The only problem with Andreessen's Digital ID is that VeriSign's Digital ID really isn't an ID, in that it doesn't identify Andreessen in any conventional sense of the word. Andreessen's photograph is on the VeriSign Q&A and it's on his California state driver's license, but his photograph does not appear on his VeriSign Digital ID.

"My Digital ID proves that I am Marc Andreessen as I communicate with others and navigate over the Internet," says Andreessen. Except it doesn't. All that his Digital ID proves is that he happens to have the matching secret key that goes with a public key on file at VeriSign.

Indeed, Andreessen's Digital ID doesn't even prove that he is a human being. That's because it's a Class 1 Digital ID, which VeriSign hands out for free to anybody with an e-mail address. You could, for example, write a computer program that goes to VeriSign's Web site and obtains hundreds of Digital IDs, each one for a slightly different e-mail address. All Andreessen's Digital ID proves is that he could have, at some point in the past, received e-mail at the address marca@netscape.com.

"I can automatically identify myself when I visit secure sites without having to remember my different username and password combinations," says Andreessen. True enough. In fact, with his Digital ID buried inside his copy of Netscape Navigator, Andreessen can now automatically provide his e-mail address to any Web site that he visits. He probably knows that, when he clicks on the Navigator button to send his Digital ID, but will your mother?

It gets even more interesting if you search VeriSign's "Digital ID Center" for Marc Andreessen's name. I tried it, and I didn't find just one single Digital ID: I found five of them, for the e-mail addresses marca@netscape.com, Marca@netscape.com, marca@Netscape.com, MarkA@netscape.com and MarkA@Netscape.com.

How's that for positive identification? "On the Internet, nobody knows if you are Marc Andreessen."

One Size Doesn't Fit All

VeriSign probably realizes that a Class 1 Digital ID isn't worth the virtual paper that it's written on—that's why the company is giving them away free for noncommercial use. For VeriSign, the real action is going to be at the higher certification levels—Classes 2, 3 and 4.

To get a Class 2 Digital ID, VeriSign will require that your identification be verified by Equifax, one of the nation's big three credit reporting agencies. Class 3 IDs will require a notarized affidavit. And the company still hasn't made public the conditions for getting one of its Class 4 IDs—"contact VeriSign" is what the company's Web site says.

It turns out that other people aren't exactly comfortable with this new world of digital identification that VeriSign is promulgating. Take Carl Ellison, a senior systems engineer at CyberCash, who has spent much of his professional life thinking about the issue of public key cryptography.

The main problem with VeriSign's approach to identification, says Ellison, is that different people have different needs for identity, and therefore have different notions of what proper identification is. "Some people mean a name. Some people mean a human body. Some people mean that guy I met long ago. Some people mean any person who can be tracked down and

punished, in case of default of a contract."

For example, if you are sending e-mail messages to your lover, you don't really care if that person's legal name is Juliet Capulet or Julie Capulet. All you care about is that your e-mail is only going to be read by her, by nobody else, and that when she sends you a letter in return that is signed, it really came from her and from nobody else.

Likewise, says Ellison, if you're a shipping clerk looking at a signed purchase order, you really don't care whose signature is on the form, or who pulled the crank of the signature machine. All you care about is that the company whose name is at the top of the purchase order will honor its promise to pay your company.

Fundamentally, there's no good reason why lovers and companies won't eschew VeriSign and simply sign each others' keys. Indeed, that's what Xcert Software is hoping users will do. The Canadian firm has developed its own software suite that mimics what VeriSign's does. The difference is that, instead of selling certification services, Xcert is actually selling the software.

"Our model is very different than VeriSign's," says Diana Costain, the company's vice president of finance. "We allow anyone to have their own CA. For example, if I, as a person, am dealing with my local corner grocery store, I don't want them to have all of that information about me—my social insurance number, credit card number, [whether or not] I have a criminal record—just so I can buy a pack of gum."

Instead, says Costain, companies using the Xcert software will certify their own customers—at least to the best of their own abilities.

TRUST IN THE KEY

VeriSign's technology is built on digital signatures, part of that wacky branch of mathematics called public key cryptography that lets people send indecipherable messages so that they can't be read by anybody—not even by crazy people with supercomputers.

To use public key cryptography, you first need to create two matching cryptographic keys: a public key and a secret key. Next, you publish your public key on the Internet (keep the secret key on your computer's hard disk). If I want to send you a secret message, all you have to do is get a copy of your public key and use it to encrypt my message. Thanks to the mathematics of public key cryptography, a message so encrypted can only be decrypted with your matching secret key.

Digital Signatures work sort of like that, but in reverse. To digitally sign a message, you actually encrypt it with your secret key, then distribute it. Anybody who has a copy of your public key can use that public key to decrypt the "signed" message. Since your public key can only decrypt messages that were signed with your secret key, and since (theoretically) only you have a copy of your secret key, then—mathematically—you must have signed the message. Make a change to the message, and the signature no longer verifies.

While this all works well in theory, there's a sticky problem that's been holding back the widespread implementation of digital signatures for more than 10 years: How do I know that your public key really belongs to you and not to somebody who is merely pretending to be you? Under normal circumstances, I don't.

That's where VeriSign comes in. VeriSign isn't issuing public or secret keys. Instead, it is issuing little digitally signed packages of information called certificates which promise that your key belongs to you, and only to you. These certificates consist of three parts: your public key, your "Distinguished Name" and VeriSign's signature, which binds them together. Because it issues these certificates, VeriSign is known as a Certificate Authority.

By the time you read this, VeriSign hopes to have four kinds of digital certificates on the market, Class 1 through Class 4. Each class, we are told, uses increasingly tougher verification techniques to assure the authenticity of the certificate's holder.

So what kind of techniques does VeriSign use to verify the authenticity of its Digital IDs? Sorry, says Peter Williams, an engineer with the company: At press time, that information was only available to people willing to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement. VeriSign promises that the procedures will be made public later this year.

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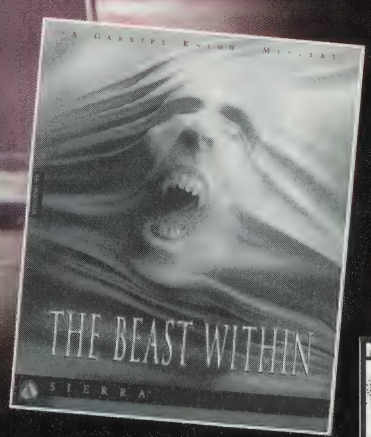

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Do you know

what your online

rights are?

IU's primer to

the increasingly

entangled world

of cyberlaw

LAW & DISORDER

by Ogden Forbes, Ed.D.

"WHAT WE NEED IS A nationwide network of information superhighways," said then Sen. Al Gore back in 1991. "This network would encourage a second information revolution." As strange or unlikely as it sounds, Gore's words proved prophetic—now, five years later, the national infrastructure exists, with approximately one-half of all the other nations on Earth tripping over themselves to build their very own.

The erratically lucent Gore, however, was a little more bleary-eyed about the myriad of legal pickles high-performance computing telecommunications would unleash on the world. With over 30 million different minds roaming the earth online, the global community faces some very serious legal dilemmas.

Do you know what your online rights are? Legislators sure don't. "New technologies will always outrun current law," asserts Pepperdine University law professor Dr. Jack J. Cole, Jr. This plain truth epitomizes the legal mess facing netizens dwelling in cyberspace. No positive code exists for the totality of their concerns. No set of principles satisfies their needs today. No abundance of case law can be found. The Internet has most certainly arrived, and with it comes revolution in many forms. Many surfers worldwide recognize the looming problems ahead. Others browse unaware. We at *IU* might not have all the answers to the many legal questions facing users today either, (unfortunately, no one does), but we do know the questions you should be asking concerning your online rights.

ART BY HUGH SHURLEY

Criminal Law

• Who should respond to cyber-terrorists and other online baddies?
• Can you protect yourself against international criminals?

"THE ROBERT T. MORRIS WORM INFECTED 6,200 computers nationwide and ultimately cost over $98 million to rid these machines of the program." Taken from the reports of the FBI and its Computer Analysts and Response Team, these words highlight the Internet criminal's potential to do serious harm while online. Morris, a graduate student at Cornell University, was identified as the perpetrator of this particular crime and was successfully prosecuted and sentenced to jail, but only after a great amount of time and money was spent. Dr. Lance Hoffman, a professor of computer science at George Washington University, says Morris' worm is only a warning of what's ahead: "The network worm Morris launched was the compound equivalent of Three Mile Island—but our Chernobyl has yet to come."

And then of course, there's bank fraud and embezzlement, money laundering, drug dealing, prostitution, gambling, mail fraud, telecommunications fraud and endless computer hacking crimes on the 'net that federal and state legislators have just barely begun to address. Title 18, United States Code (USD), Section 1030 does stipulate punishment for computer users who impair, steal or intrude upon federal computers—but some good it has done. Wily hackers, unintimidated by existing laws, attempted to break into Pentagon computers an estimated 250,000 times in the past year.

What's worse, few laws exist that set concrete punishments for non-federal abuses. The feds insist on prosecuting interstate crimes, but oddly enough, they are extremely fickle in choosing which interstate computer cases to pursue. In many instances, federal law enforcers point to the state when it comes to dealing with computer crimes, who in turn points back to the federal government—it's all an embarrassing game of "You're the man—No, *you're* the man."

In time, jurisdictional authority will eventually be doled out between federal and state governments, assuming of course that policing agencies manage to ever catch up with the technological advancements of the Internet. Some enforcement agencies in major U.S. cities, such as New York, are developing local computer crime task forces to deal with the exponentially growing number of harassment, fraud and hacking crimes, among many other crimes, that are being reported daily, but overall the authorities are far behind on the learning curve.

But what about crimes committed against you by individuals living in foreign countries? Do Peru, Cambodia, Russia or Egypt have legal systems which can respond to computer crimes effectively? To what extent are other countries of the world willing to work with the United States to sign mutual cooperation treaties addressing international computing crime? Establishing global political will with regard to such crimes must become a higher priority of nations, but in many instances, there might never be resolution.

Enforcement

• What good is a law if it cannot be enforced?
• Can a consumer recover an investment from an Internet storefront located in another region of the world?
• How does the FBI, CIA or NCI track down Internet terrorists?

IT'S A THANKLESS JOB, BUT somebody has got to do it. Enforcement of Cyberlaw is a crucial task—a political will and its derivative laws remain almost meaningless if they cannot be enforced.

The several obstacles to enforcement can be reduced to three categories: technological, financial and political. Of the three, technological enforcement of cyberlaw has been advancing the fastest. This past April, the FBI was able to issue an arrest warrant for an Argentine computer hacker, Julio Cesar Ardita, thanks to its use of new software developed especially for the U.S. Navy (see "The FBI Smells a Rat" *IU #7*). The FBI tracked Ardita's movements through Department of Defense and NASA computers using 'iWatch,' a program developed from the "Network Intrusion Detector." Scott Denton, project leader of the team at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, developed the applications that made the computer wiretap possible. The Navy had been using NID to monitor intruder attacks against sensitive government computers. Essentially, the tool captures every keystroke that flows between computer screens for "interesting activity." The Ardita case shows that packet sniffers—a useful tool not only in identifying hackers, but terrorists, drug smugglers and other criminals—are here to stay.

Encryption, for decades a "munition" of the U.S. government, now abounds on the Internet in the form of "Pretty Good Privacy," and several other programs. Scrambling messages by use of extended, lengthy algorithms and chips, makes exhaustion of possibilities almost an impossibility for most supercomputers running for great lengths of time. Financial and credit information now runs the Internet, suitably encrypted for protective purposes. With the notable exception of American surveillance and

intelligence agencies such as the NSA and FBI, most people are pleased with the rapid acceptance of encryption programs. Inevitably, the race to gain access to information and to protect it from intrusion will run without end. New and better technologies will continue to be developed to enable enforcement agencies worldwide to better execute their nations' political will and laws.

The second great obstacle to enforcement will be the financial strength or weakness of victims to bring perpetrators of crime to justice, especially in an international environment, where any of 6 billion people on the Earth might be the accused (Agatha Christie would have loved the Internet). The costs of identifying the accused, gaining jurisdiction, hiring a legal staff and extraditing the accused might likely be a price too great to pay for many netizens.

Finally, and perhaps the greatest enforcement obstacle, remains political. Until a political will exists to support the creation and enforcement of cyberlaws, the best technology and the greatest financial resources will likely prove ineffective.

Constitutional Law

• Who can look at porn on the 'net?
• How do American morals translate to other countries?
• What are the limits of free speech online?

PORNOGRAPHIC IMAGES ABOUND ON THE Internet. Naughty pics, scanned or otherwise digitized, traverse the information superhighway almost as much as e-mail. Keeping with the adage that any new technology is first colonized by the vice trades, this "industry" has been a leading commercial and technical innovator of cyberspace for several years. Thousands of storefronts can be found. Live shows are "broadcast" on the 'net from one country to another. Commercial transactions via lines of electronic credit are commonplace. The volume of interested consumers remains very high. Interactivity via the Internet finds new horizons of expression through the efforts of creative purveyors of porn.

Unfortunately for them, the business is readily acknowledged as illegal in many parts of the United States. Despite frequent "interruptions" from "the men from Washington," these storefronts, large and small, like a virus, continue to mutate and thrive on the Internet. Most sites have a links page, often with hundreds, if not thousands of listings. This emerging mutual support group makes their technological demise almost impossible, even for the most aggressive enforcement agencies. Similarly, routine rotation of URL addresses makes effective enforcement that much more difficult.

The pre-eminent constitutional question of freedom of speech must be considered again for netizens. In June of 1994, Robert and Carleen Thomas, operators of an adult bulletin board in California, were convicted in federal court in Memphis, Tenn., on obscenity charges because pornographic images had been downloaded by a postal inspector working closely with an assistant U.S. attorney in Tennessee. The case is currently under appeal, but nevertheless, the virulent porn industry continues to thrive on the 'net, seemingly immune to the law and to the fluctuating interests of the American people. Meanwhile, the American appetite for this material appears only to increase.

Americans have not really established a strong domestic stance on the constitutional issue of pornography. It remains difficult for representatives to define. Codes and enforcement procedures are routinely challenged in court, and cumulative market demand for "pornography" appears only to be increasing. Precisely because many Americans are divided on this issue, no effective definitive response can be expected any time soon.

Meanwhile, if attaining a consensus on pornography has been a political nightmare for Americans, it remains just as difficult for cultures and nations throughout the world. Remember the infamous case last winter of the German government's demand of CompuServe to eliminate particular adult-oriented newsgroups from access over its service? CompuServe backed down. It accepted the expressed political will of the German people. Similarly, the People's Republic of China, while absolutely lusting for Western technologies, considers nearly all political and social thought from the Western world as harmful and ultimately pornographic. It seeks technological means to restrict pornography, as well as other pro-democracy opinions, from reaching its country. If successful, the implication of their "success" might be globally Draconian.

The Law of Intellectual Property

• How can making a printout of a Web site be stealing?
• It's a shareware world; what real value does a copyright hold?

POLICING THEFT HAS ANCIENT POLITICAL ROOTS. Once upon a time, the punishment for thievery was amputation of the offending hand. Such barbaric methods are now shunned throughout most of the world, but the routine incarceration of thieves sends the clear message that robbery is wrong. Most 'net users believe they're law-abiding. They'd probably be dismayed to find that their casual downloads might brand them as criminals.

Millions of people routinely make printouts and save files of works that catch their fancy. Consequently, many individuals and organizations do not receive just compensation for their work. Imagine hoards of people walking out of the library with stacks of books in both hands. None have used their library card and none have any intention of returning the books. Imagine barren bookstores and magazine kiosks stripped clean by voracious white-collar criminals. Intellectual property is slightly different because each instance of pilfering is immaterial. However, the loss to the author is very real.

In December 1993, 11 members of the National Writers Union filed a federal suit over copyrights against the Information Access Company, the New York Times Company, and LEXIS/NEXIS. Most online providers of information pay copyright through the Copyright Clearance Center to publishers, but when authors retain their own copyright, they receive absolutely no compensation. American courts should be responsible for adapting the law to this new technological problem of usage. Meanwhile, businesses can and should take it upon themselves to develop solutions. The CARL Corporation, for example, has been working with NWU to develop a transaction-based royalty reimbursement directly to authors who retain their personal copyright.

In another case, CompuServe is being sued by Frank Music Corporation, because 550 compositions of its "1995 version of 'Unchained Melody'" had been posted and/or downloaded by its members. CompuServe argues that it can only be held liable for incidents that it knew about. Hopefully, the courts will provide leadership in this case and others like it.

Exacerbating the problem, once again, is the issue of jurisdiction. Cyberspace defies geographic boundaries. For instance, the People's Republic of China has been slow to respond to the collective theft of copyrighted entertainment and computing materials belonging to citizens and businesses of the United States. Sale of these materials in Asia has cost these parties countless millions of dollars. As China begins to deploy its own information infrastructure, copyright theft by use of the Internet can be expected to increase, unless there comes a transformative crackdown. Expect intellectual property law to remain in the forefront of the media throughout the rest of this century.

Securities Law

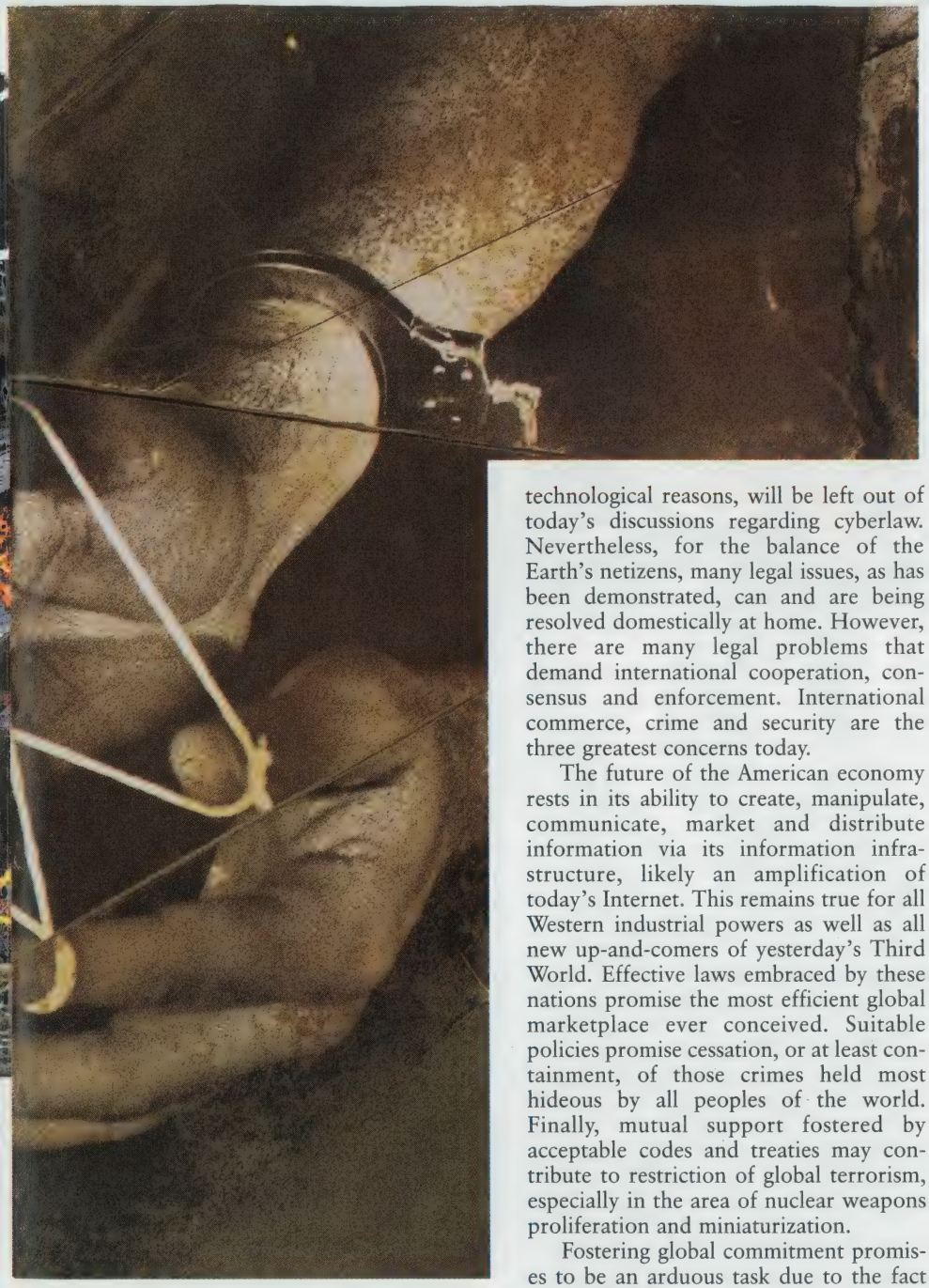
• What if a new stock exchange goes online without the endorsement and/or against the will of the SEC?
• What is to prevent a Taiwanese citizen from staging an IPO on the Internet?

INTERNET INITIAL PUBLIC offerings intrigue the Security and Exchange Commission of the United States and scare the bejeezus out of potential competitors like NASDAQ. Early experiments with the concept have enjoyed amazing success—the Spring Street Brewery Company, the firm that pioneered initial public offerings over the Internet, raised millions of dollars last year. Consequently, Spring Street Brewery founder, Andrew Klein, has created Wit Capital Corporation to arrange IPOs for other companies and set up an online stock exchange. Online IPOs translate to greater access for everyday investors. "Through the Internet we can get directly to the public," Klein says. And lord knows, direct access brings smiles to the faces of thousands of potential investors.

Naturally, members of the SEC, NASDAQ, the New York Stock Exchange, the Pacific Stock Exchange and many other exchanges worldwide, have taken keen interest in Klein's activities. If Klein succeeds, each of the exchanges stands to lose valuable customers. Lots of them. Employees and agents might even shift allegiances as well. No one doubts the suitability of the technology for the commercial exchange of stock, but the global implications are dazzling.

The potential for people getting ripped off is huge too, and without recourse. For this reason, the American Security and Exchange Commission seeks to protect both buyer and seller from potential cases of fraud. So far, this highly regulated process of exchange has been more or less successful in its efforts, but how can the SEC protect American citizens who freely choose to take risks in a non-regulated online stock exchange? Do they hold domestic "jurisdiction" or can an Act of Congress provide it? What if the online stock exchange calls its home a floating yacht in the Pacific Ocean, linked by satellite to financial institutions in every major industrial country in the world? The technology exists for such shoddy institutions to thrive.

Equivalent institutions to the SEC in other countries must also be asking these same questions. Free exchange of goods should be productive commerce for all people. Federal institutions welcome productivity derived from these markets, but must also protect against fraud and abuse. Enforcement beyond the shores of the United States once again involves the evolution of global political will.



International Law

• Is the Web really "world-wide?"
• What do the other 200 or so countries of the world think of the U.S. Constitution?

CHAD, MALI AND BANGLADESH probably don't have much of an Internet presence, and thus, the "World Wide Web" remains a misnomer. Half the world has no access to a telephone, let alone a computer and the Internet. Much of the world, for political, sociological and financial reasons, but definitely not technological reasons, will be left out of today's discussions regarding cyberlaw. Nevertheless, for the balance of the Earth's netizens, many legal issues, as has been demonstrated, can and are being resolved domestically at home. However, there are many legal problems that demand international cooperation, consensus and enforcement. International commerce, crime and security are the three greatest concerns today.

The future of the American economy rests in its ability to create, manipulate, communicate, market and distribute information via its information infrastructure, likely an amplification of today's Internet. This remains true for all Western industrial powers as well as all new up-and-comers of yesterday's Third World. Effective laws embraced by these nations promise the most efficient global marketplace ever conceived. Suitable policies promise cessation, or at least containment, of those crimes held most hideous by all peoples of the world. Finally, mutual support fostered by acceptable codes and treaties may contribute to restriction of global terrorism, especially in the area of nuclear weapons proliferation and miniaturization.

Fostering global commitment promises to be an arduous task due to the fact that delay in passing laws means that technology often outpaces legislation. Nevertheless, rewards for the effort are great. Pepperdine's Coe says, "This reality of delay tends to argue in favor for a new mechanism, some sort of lawmaker body standing, similar to the European community." Such an institution certainly promises much more rapid passage of requisite laws for cyberspace and its world of instantaneous communication. But Coe remains a realist: "It would be most conceivable to run into a countermovement not in favor of any form of permanent sovereignty, any mechanism which takes away options at the domestic level. For example, many question the constitutionality of America's participation in the United Nations." Edward Gibbons, one of the world's greatest historians, realized that Roman citizens centuries ago had to agree among themselves long before judges could agree with them. So it remains true today.

The Law of Contracts

• What happens if I get swindled by my Internet Service Provider?
• What is the electronic equivalent of signatures on a written contract?

EVER WORRIED ABOUT YOUR Internet provider screwing you over? In a local scenario, the solution is simple. If your ISP violates your contract or simply crashes and burns, just flip open the Yellow Pages. Neighborhood lawyers can easily respond to disputes involving interpretation of services rendered. Your ISP, after all, is just another local business. But what if the dispute involves parties in two countries? Can jurisdiction for the dispute be found in either of the two nations? Precisely because the Internet creates instantaneous, point-to-point contact for commercial transactions, both parties to such an agreement need meaningful assurances. Until lasting assurances can be found for global commerce, risk remains high.

What made your contract with the ISP binding in the first place? Well, the fact that both parties inked in their signatures. But what kind of "signatures" exist in cyberspace? Jeffrey Ritter, an American attorney, believes that an electronic equivalent to legally binding signatures on a written contract can be found, and has been a leader in setting up the Internet Law Task Force to study just such a question.

Almost 10 years ago, Rep. George E. Brown, Jr., (D-Calif.) another champion of American information infrastructure deployment, concerned himself with the long-range strategic questions that our society would face in a global economy whose primary competitive mechanism is the creation of knowledge and the management of technological innovations. Appreciative of the Internet's former Unix environment, he predicted popular interest in the 'net long before the iconic interface arrived. Today, all you need to do to browse the 'net is click your mouse, and the hoards are closing in. Most of the users of the "World Wide Web" live in the United States, though this ratio will change soon. As Americans prepare for the 21st information society and culture, satisfying answers to Ritter's question must be found (Examine our story on VeriSign's digital signatures on page 44 for more information). International commerce, matching international Internet diffusion, demands a solid answer. ●

art by jordin isip

by steve edwards

fallen angels explain their choice to join the dark side

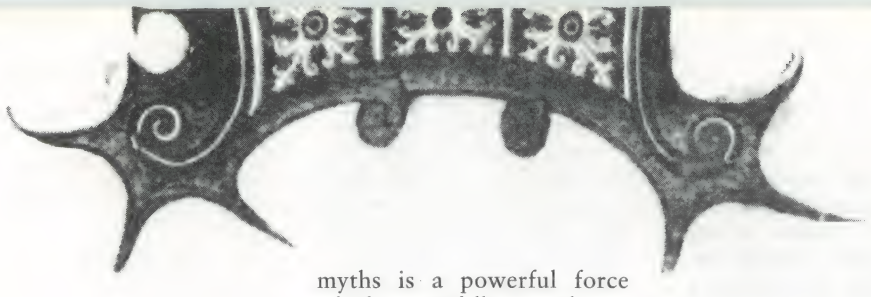
speak of the devil

THE SKULL OF A GOAT AND three dead copperhead snakes were set up on a boulder covered with wildflowers in back of a fire ring. An altar for devil worshippers, we decided, clustering around it. It was a cold, dark, November morning on the Cumberland Plateau, a wild and remote section of Tennessee noted for its hostile inhabitants. The turbulent Emory River, on which we were canoeing, began to take on ominous aspects of the river Styx. As we paddled, we kept one eye on the cliffs and prayed for deliverance.

Months later, a luminescent goat's head stared out at me, encompassed in an inverted star. I was at home, safe in my comfortable den, surrounded by my books and my high-tech toys. The goat's head was safely ensconced in my computer monitor. Screen after screen followed, full of outrageous statements and satanic imagery. I was on the Internet, viewing the Altar of Unholy Blasphemy.

Somehow, it was easy to accept that a cult of misguided souls could exist in a backwoods place like the Cumberland Plateau. But here was evidence that the Ancient Adversary was stalking cyberspace, the ultimate expression of a rationalist, technological society. The paradox puzzled me.

In this, the twilight of the 20th century, communicating with the devil, or at least one of his many minions, has never been easier. The Internet, with its worldwide scope, its sense of anonymity and its freedom from virtually any meaningful regulation, is the perfect vehicle for propagating and receiving the gospel of evil. The Prince of Darkness, with his customary élan, has availed himself of all the multifarious electronic



avenues of expression. While the Christian Right frets about pornography on the World Wide Web, Satan cackles and gleefully claims another soul.

The Horned One has his own IRC channel, #satan, as well as his own newsgroups, alt.satanism and alt.satannet. The Web pages of his followers are numerous and Hell's e-mail directory must be expanding exponentially. To get in touch with his satanic majesty, one might first visit "Hell—The Online Guide to Satanism" at **http://www.marshall.edu/~allen12/index.html**. At the site there are links to the main satanic societies as well as other occult organizations. The Church of Satan is probably the largest satanic organization in the U.S., but numbers are hard to come by. The more shadowy Order of Nine Angles operates out of England and has now gone underground. Temple of Set, another denomination, also has a well-developed Internet presence.

These organizations certainly *sound* "fringe," but if you believe that all Satanists are tattooed teenagers with nipple-rings, brain-addled from listening to too much Iron Maiden, think again. Since consorting with the devil is generally frowned upon by the societal majority, you can be assured that many followers keep their satanic allegiance a secret. It is unlikely that you would recognize them on the street. You might be surprised to learn that the Church of Satan claims that many of its members are law enforcement officers. Judging from the volumes of occult literature they produce, many Satanists also have an academic bent. It's only through the anonymity of the Internet that you can cut to the quick of who decides to be a Satanist and why.

People who derive solace and hope from their religion find it difficult to understand why someone would worship darkness. Dr. William Viser, a Southern Baptist and author of a book on the occult, *The Darkness Among Us*, suggests that Satanists come in a variety of flavors: There are rebellious teenagers who find in Satan a symbol guaranteed to make adults uncomfortable, dabblers attracted by the allure of the occult, people who hate God or organized religion for whatever reason and, most dangerously, the mentally unstable.

But what precisely are these people embracing? Satan is a shadowy figure in both scripture and literature. The devil appears only sporadically in the Bible, and his status is difficult to ascertain. In the Book of Job, he seems to be on speaking terms with God and willing to do his bidding. However, by the time the Book of Revelations was written, the nature of the Beast had become apparent. Many Satanists, however, regard the New Testament as mere Christian propaganda. Satan's image and properties have further been confused with those of the Greek god Pan as well as a couple of esoteric Germanic deities. Mephistopheles, to whom Faust sold his soul in the medieval legend, may have been the Prince of Darkness himself, or just a minor devil in his employ. The popular conception of the devil probably owes more to John Milton's *Paradise Lost* than to Biblical sources. The sum total of these myths is a powerful force which many fallen angels are embracing whole-heartedly.

"Let them hate; so long as they fear" (From the Latin, *Oderint Dum Metuant).* This is the motto for Grotto ODM, which is affiliated with the Church of Satan. Clearly, these guys don't go out of their way to be lovable. Burton H. Wolfe, a priest in the Church of Satan, says, "Satanism is a blatantly selfish, brutal philosophy. It is based on the belief that human beings are inherently selfish, violent creatures, that life is a Darwinian struggle for survival of the fittest, that only the strong survive and the Earth will be ruled by those who fight to win the ceaseless competition that exists in all jungles—including those of urbanized society."

Goat, the creator of a very scary site, the Altar of Unholy Blasphemy (**http://www.paranoia.com/~goat**), which first introduced me to Satanism online, explains some of the cult's tenets. He says, "We associate with the forces of evil as a philosophical mindset, rather than a dialectical polarity. We assault Christianity for its stranglehold on knowledge through repression and fear, as they are the forefront of the mindset of weakness."

Goat says that our world is in trouble due to humanity's inability to communicate. He believes that this "creates troubles in our head...through our own sadness at the lack of an interesting future ahead of all of us, and the suicidal digestive urge of society that drives us to listless lives and welcome death."

Satanists embrace evil in the wake of such confusion because "evil provides a basis of empowering knowledge, where Christianity is a control structure; for this reason we seek to understand the fullness of that metaphor."

Goat explained this focus on the negative, and says, "We focus on shadows to illustrate light where it is intense, and not where it is predictable. All things are a system of connection beyond the simple constrictions of human thought. Human brains are closed, blind to fantasy and conceptualization. They never know the powers of liberation and free thought; they only know what will sate their addictions, another dose with an empty promise and endless lure. In the maps in our minds of all that is known, we have altered our perception to service denial rather than feeling: We are numb to pain, when pain is what we should feel at the state of this world. In repression, we deny and collapse. Satan will never bring us a philosophy and expect us to follow a leader, but he drops us a powerful clue in his philosophy of liberation. He tells us to understand desire as a state past our basic nihilism—denial of value in this world—and to understand our aspirations and not our loyalties."

Primed in part by my interviews and by the Satanists' own propaganda, I had imagined Satanists to be fearsome, dark people, worshipping evil in all its forms. Not so, apparently. At least not according to Satanist Web personality Hr. Vad, who ran a satanic home page from his Catholic school, until he got caught by the Rectorate and was forced to remove his site.

Hr. Vad explains his satanic leanings in an e-mail interview. "I consider myself a healthy and natural animal, and as such, being a Satanist is a logical choice. A lot of really repressed and broken people would not find Satanism very attractive (I guess). Satanism is a religion (if that's the correct word) of the flesh, LIFE, beauty and love. The kind of Xtian (Christian) TYPES around today are utterly opposed to this in a deep way—just look at what they're DOING...THEY, the Xtians, are pure EVIL. In an absolute and scientific way."

How does Satanism compete with traditional religion; can it provide comfort, hope, satisfaction and community? Hr. Vad replies, "I'm NOT delusional: That *is* what Satanism has brought me. I'm all FOR science and there's no part in me which tries to fight the advances of knowledge. With Xtians it's the opposite, as reality always 'comes crashing in on them' in a HURTFUL way. It HURTS them because they LOVE their illusions. As a Satanist I have no such illusions and I have an infinite love for the raw, undiluted substance of life." When asked what he hoped to accomplish with his Web page, Hr. Vad answers, "I wanted to share the stuff and so I DID. That's the way we Satanists are. NICE."

Some people might argue with the concept of Satanists being "nice." In fact, the Order of Nine Angles (ONA), a proponent of "traditional Satanism," believes in propitiating the spirits of darkness occasionally with the ultimate offering. "Human sacrifice is powerful magick. The ritual death of an individual does two things; It releases energy (which can be directed, or stored—for example, in a crystal) and it draws down dark forces or 'entities.' Such forces may then be used, by directing them toward a specific goal..." (from *A Gift for the Prince—A Guide to Human Sacrifice*, ONA). This ritual murder is sometimes called satanic culling, because "some people are worthless, a liability to evolution, and their removal is healthy; it aids the human stock. And thus helps to achieve Satanic goals." (From *Satanism: A Basic Introduction for Prospective Adherents*, by Anton Long, ONA). In addition to culling, the ONA supposedly practices voluntary sacrifice as part of the Ceremony of Recalling, which is held every 17 years. The Order of Nine Angles is unusual in this aspect; most satanic organizations profess to be law-abiding. This may be true, but it may be a smokescreen; we can only hope that the law enforcement community investigates any dubious activity.

If devil-worshippers are really such good citizens, try imagining this play on a popular bumper sticker: "I'm a Satanist, and I vote!" You may have thought that the devil was non-partisan, embracing all scurrilous politicians as his own chosen flock, but it just isn't so. Although the CoS does not require any political orthodoxy, it acknowledges a tilt toward libertarianism in its philosophy. Other satanic orders advertise themselves as "occult fascists." The CoS, while abjuring racism, nevertheless states that Satanists "seek to enhance the laws of nature by fostering the practice of eugenics. This is not some exotic doctrine hatched in the brains of Third Reich medical madmen. It is the practice of encouraging people of talent and ability to reproduce, to enrich the gene pool from which our species can grow." As proven by this statement, most Satanists are elitists, even fascists. As one put it, "the problem with democracy is that morons have the right to vote." So, should we "morons" worry about an emerging satanic party in the United States? As Satanist Jason Posey puts it, "There are not enough Satanists to affect the election for Arizona Mine Inspector, much less anything of importance."

By now it should be obvious that the devil's advocates are computer literate and masters of multimedia. In retrospect, this should not be surprising. Ever since Eve ate the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge, Lucifer's followers have held the technological advantage. However, it is worth examining the many parallels between the culture of the Satanists and that of computer nerds, hackers and phreakers. Long before the first primitive versions of Zork and Wizardry, long before Dungeons & Dragons was committed to floppy disks, occultists had adopted roles as adepts, wizards, witches and mages. For the Satanists, the world is one big Multi-User Dungeon in which they give themselves magickal names, dress up in robes and cast spells.

In the words of Isaac Asimov, any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magick. Both the hacker and the Satanist have accepted the concept of the elite; the world is divided into the self-selected Inner Sanctum and the surplus masses. Lately, among the digital cognoscenti there is a nascent notion developing, supported by advancing technology—the idea of self-directed evolution. The future belongs to some chemically enhanced, genetically engineered bionic cyberman, a chimera of biological and digital components. Mutate and take over the world, exhorts digital culture guru R.U. Sirius. Are these people serious? No one can tell for sure, and we shudder to think: What manner of beast now slouches toward Bethlehem?

Spotlight

Lies. Nothing but lies.

Imagine: You e-mail a retired phreaker and give him your telephone number for him to call you back. He calls, but leaves no return number, claiming he'll "track you down." And he does track you down, sort of. He calls you at a rare moment when you're actually at your desk. Paranoia. Is he watching?

He says he works for a MAJOR company (the wunderkind!), but that you can't reach him there by phone. His phone is "broken." (A phreaker with a broken phone?) He doesn't tell you his real name, but says that if you call back on his co-worker's line in exactly five minutes, he'll answer so that you can conduct the interview. After all, he explains, his company shouldn't foot the bill. You call the number. A switchboard operator spits out the name of his MAJOR company and you quickly ask for extension 654321. The phreaker answers and greets you with a warm, expectant tone. "I'm at work," he insists, but for all I know, the call was routed through London, New York and Amsterdam before reaching him at some remote, private locale.

The **Underground Propaganda** home page, at **http://www.metrix.net/daddict/**, is the creation of an ex-phreaker, Def Con annual hacker convention speaker and computer industry worker from Seattle, who says he's never stepped foot inside a college classroom. His handle is "Dead Addict," changed from Sugar Addict after a friend, "Mind Rape," suggested that the "Sugar" moniker didn't have enough of an edge.

"The truth told in the guise of deception" is the dark message that welcomes readers to his site, **Underground Propaganda**. The editorial, a compendium of propaganda, information analysis essays and a speech presented at Def Con III, in Las Vegas, 1995, is written entirely by Dead Addict (the design is left to his friend "Belial" from Blind Spot Studios). "It turns out my speech was pretty expansive in the areas I covered and I realized I had all this other material that I had written in various forms. I decided to reuse it and put it online," says Dead Addict.

By far the most frequently read page on his **Underground Propaganda** site is the "In defense of piracy" feature, a work perhaps best described as "inciting." Dead Addict tossed around the idea for the essay at Def Con III, at a time when little was being said or published about the issue. The article confronts the equivocalness of laws surrounding questions of piracy by defining and analyzing high-tech sacking. "The definition of piracy nowhere requires that the individual profit from his activities. According to law, apparently a 12-year-old could owe $10 million for having 100 unopened .ZIP files on his computer. There are those who claim that the software is the pirate's profit. The pirate is not stealing money, however, he is merely copying bytes," explains Dead Addict.

Beyond the technical lore on his site, philosophical and sociological asides converge with fiction and poetry to create thought-provoking critiques. Propaganda just needs the proper vehicle to be effective, he says in one particularly intriguing essay, simply titled, "Television." "...Television is the most persuasive medium. I think the wealthy, who can afford the computers, bandwidth and training are getting more of an advantage. The Internet itself is finally a breakdown of the monopolization of media which is a wonderful, empowering thing. One of the reasons why I started, [although] I'm not actively hacking, was to get access," he explains.

The lighter side of the site contains poetry, like "Bits of Love," about electronic romance —a subject that is not fictional to Dead Addict. He met the "love of his life" via e-mail. The first time the two met face-to-face was on his doorstep after she trekked cross country to live with him. Usenet postings had sparked an e-mail correspondence which eventually led to late nights talks on the phone, and the rest is history. "I was glad I was a phreaker at that point. It saved me a lot of money. I used to call from the Westin Hotel—it was beautiful. There was live music and you could smoke inside."

Underground Propaganda is a conceptual boomerang—you'll end up where you started, questioning your very own notions of truth and falsehood. Dead Addict, however, is quite resolute about the truth issue: "I don't think the truth can be told. Anyone who wants you to believe what they have to say is the truth—look at their motivation. In this age of information-overload we must understand, disseminate and process information ourselves. When we are too lazy to do this, our decisions are based upon other people's interpretations, opinions and agendas."

Underground Propaganda is Dead Addict's domicile for his thoughts. He warns, "This space is my propaganda. My words will affect you, they will have been read. Do not doubt this."

Trust us, he's not lying.

http://www.metrix.net/daddict/

by Mark Katzman

FLASH and ECSTASY!

AARON LAUER

On the Net With R.U. Sirius

(continued from page 12)

seemed to be contiguous, I could finish one without being subjected to an intro to another one. Great!!

It was a small thing...but it made my afternoon much more pleasant.

Thanks,

Steve Sorensen
Boulder, CO
sesoren@ix.netcom.com

My encounter with the infamous R.U. Sirius (a.k.a. Ken Goffman) took place at Verbum's 8th annual Digital Be-In on Jan. 11, at the Transmission Theater in San Francisco. Sirius was in attendance as one of the "Soapbox Visionaries" filmed and interviewed for the event. As the co-founder of *Mondo 2000*, he's played an integral role in shaping our perceptions of the cyberzeitgeist. Make no mistake: Sirius is well-tuned-in to the evolving scene, writing now for *Boing Boing*, *Wired*, *21.C*, *Art Forum International*, and *Japan Esquire*. Other recent projects include: the mocking "Cyberpunk Handbook" (Random House) and the "exploded post-novel" *How to Mutate and Take Over the World* (Ballantine Books) at **http://www.onworld.com/mutate/**.

SIRIUS, RIGHT, AND HIS *HOW TO MUTATE* CO-AUTHOR, ST. JUDE

The Be-In concept originates from the seminal "gathering of the tribes" in Golden Gate Park on Jan. 14, 1967. The Digital Be-In, produced by Michael Gosney, gathers a "new tribe," tuned into the humanistic and evolutionary aspects of digital media. This was the first "cybercast" Be-In, instantaneously archived on its own Web site (**http://www.be-in.com**).

For our visit, the "Icon-at-Large," wearing a black leather jacket that had seemingly mutated into his skin, led me to a little dark niche near the theater guest entrance where we naturally slumped down on the floor in informal, cyberpunk glory.

Mark Katzman: Timothy Leary told me that light is a basic language. Where is this language of light taking us? What's happening through these screens?

R.U. Sirius: I think it's a quickening effect, more than anything else. We're speeding up the amount of stuff that we can communicate. We're sort of becoming broadcasting stations. Each of us, individually, are becoming broadcasting stations.

MK: And we're wiring the planet?

R.U. Sirius: Yeah. It's really quantity. It's the expression of quantity of information, noise. Everybody in the world or huge amounts of people in the world getting a voice, through electronics, who previously didn't have a voice. We're becoming a different kind of human being through this process. You know, human beings were toolmakers, farmers, industrial workers, and now large numbers of human beings are communicators. We have a whole different identity to deal with.

MK: "The brain wants light," Leary said. "We have the equipment there, it's time to wake up and use it."

R.U. Sirius: Yeah. The brain wants novelty. The eyes want stuff. The eyes want flash, the eyes want light.

MK: He said the brain is starved. It wants more electricity, more light, more change.

R.U. Sirius: I agree. I think the brain certainly wants a lot more. I think that may be the reason we're called the cyberculture or technoculture. I think it was really novel five or six years ago. I think that it's coming into a certain level of maturity. But I think we need a lot more novelty. We need to be more playful with it. We really need to make a better attempt to blow each others' minds. I tend to be a little dissatisfied with things, myself.

MK: You've been at the edge of it.

R.U. Sirius: I recently put together a top 10 list for *Art Forum* magazine, where you can see your 10 favorite things right now. I had a hard time thinking about anything that I was really, really, really excited about. We're all sort of waiting.

MK: What about CD-ROMs? What turns you on?

R.U. Sirius: I like the one that's here tonight that I listed in my top 10 list, which is *Joe Sparks' Total Distortion*. It has a lot of eyeball kick. A lot of flashing lights, a lot of movement. It's sexy, it's funny and it's sharp. People really enjoy watching animation material on television rather than old-style TV shows because you get more. It's got plastic reality. A great example is *AEon Flux* on MTV. That's such a psychedelic show.

MK: Switching gears some, what do you think about drugs and their growing place in cyberculture these days?

R.U. Sirius: There's never been a stop, from the '60s on, it's always been there. Right now there's a tendency among people that it's very hip to stay straight. And it comes and goes, you know.

MK: What about neuro-enhancers, smart drugs? Are they passé?

R.U. Sirius: The information got out there. It became a trend. And that opened up a door to people who wanted to pursue that. And after a while that kind of settles in and only people who are really interested in that sort of thing will do it. I think people who maybe feel that they don't have enough focus, or have a little problem with memory, or need to be able to get a little bit more information than they can otherwise will be attracted to the smart drugs.

MK: Is San Francisco still the cutting edge of the multimedia scene?

R.U. Sirius: I think it probably is. Yeah. I think that the really interesting edge, probably the next frontier, is biology. Actually being able to manipulate the stuff of life itself—molecular technology, nanotechnology. The focus of that is in Palo Alto with the Foresight Institute and Eric Drexler.

MK: Will there be a time when we can hook the brain, for real, to a computer via direct neural connection, or is it still science fiction?

R.U. Sirius: There's actually a brainwave machine that can control a computer through brain-waves, which, I think, should provoke a resurgence of research into psychic areas and so forth. There's also been recent revelations by the CIA about their psychic studies having payoff. So I think it's an area that's been in the dark that I kind of lost interest in, but now you can see the stuff bubbling up to the surface. There's obviously something very real going on there.

MK: There seems to be a thread which keeps the Be-In concept going.

R.U. Sirius: I think there's a natural human desire for ecstatic experience that was expressed by the Human Be-In in the '60s. That thread just keeps on running through things. People find different reasons for gathering together to celebrate the possibility of ecstasy, their feelings of ecstasy and their hopes for ecstasy. It's a down-to-earth, funky, people kind of thing. I don't think it's AT&T. You come to a place where people are being interviewed—Ted Nelson, Timothy Leary, myself, we're all people on the outside. We're not on the A-list of cyberculture, you know.

Reviews

101 Businesses You Can Start on the Internet

By Daniel S. Janal

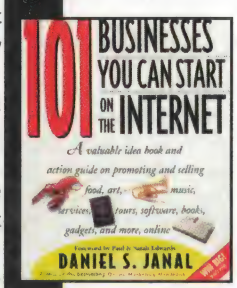
International Thomson Publishing

$24.95

★★★★

If you believe the Internet is more than a playground for misfit ideas and creative chaos, you'll enjoy this read. The author, Daniel S. Janal, is not just a theorist. He regularly speaks about actually making Internet marketing and online business ventures work, and maintains an online business of his own—Janal Communications. The purpose of the book is, "To give ideas and inspiration to start your own new business on the Internet." The instructional guide is not, however, a running list of 101 ideas. Rather, it is a storehouse of information separated into two sections. The first contains three chapters explaining why you should consider starting a business on the 'net and the second contains 101 examples of Internet business possibilities in the shape of case studies. Each case study includes interviews in sections titled, "Background," "Getting Started," "Your Day" and "The Future." What do you have to know about the Internet to appreciate this book? Not much. The Internet basics are covered from A-to-Z, focusing on ISPs, commercial online services, collecting cash via the 'net and more. Some of the Web business and service categories highlighted in Janal's work are: medicine, real estate, retail, publishing, entertainment, photography and technology/Internet/software. All in all, the book was helpful and encouraging, despite its repetitiveness now and again. The book also provides a helpful guideline to would-be online entrepreneurs by differentiating between acceptable and objectionable business practice on the 'net. Bad practices "pose potential danger for their owners if they do not conduct their businesses within the generally accepted bounds of online behavior, which is, 'Don't send unsolicited advertising via e-mail or post it in newsgroups and mailing lists.'" *101 Businesses* is Janal's response to the aging question, "Why can't we all just get along?" It's essentially a how-to on Internet marketing and proper sales netiquette to those interested in selling to a community that existed online long before it was ever profitable to be there.

—Lauren Gonzalez



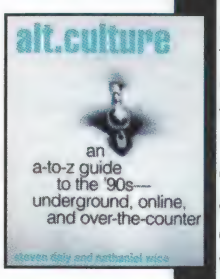
alt.culture

By Steven Daly and Nathaniel Wice

HarperPerrenial

$17.00

★★★½



If you're not familiar with Jackie Chan, Noam Chomsky, the Church of the SubGenius or Crystal Pepsi, it might be time to pick up *alt.culture*. It's the perfect companion to a new *Details* subscription, a valuable gift for your big-haired friend who finally upgraded from his Commodore 64 and a great opportunity to catch up with popular culture before the new millennium begins. The listings in *alt.culture* provide a good primer to the worlds of literature, music, art and fashion, and touch on everything from bell hooks to the Butthole Surfers. At times though, it seems that Steve Daly and Nathaniel Wice only wrote the work in an encyclopedic format so that they could compile a list of all the '90s celebrities and institutions they felt compelled to shoot down. Some of their favorite targets include the Menendez Brothers, The Gap and America Online, which is described as suffering from "a vaguely jingoistic name and the censorship instincts of a mall manager." In addition to occasionally brilliant moments of stinging sarcasm, the most noteworthy thing about *alt.culture* is its well chosen URLs and newsgroup recommendations that provide readers with links to online militias, Liz Phair and other interesting pages residing in the 'net's margins. The authors have also set up an extensive Web site at **http://www.altculture.com** in order to keep the book *au courant*. It's a noble effort, however, with the rapidly changing face of the Web, the print version of *alt.culture* will be alt.passé within a year.

—Craig Aaron

W S

Killer.app
by Barbara D'Amato
Forge
$22.95
★★

Killer.app feeds from our natural fear of a certain bespectacled multibillionaire through the book's leading villain, Dean Utley, the ruthless head of SJR DataSystems. Utley has wicked dreams of taking over the world by exploiting his ability to access and change untold amounts of data. The first step: brush away the president of the United States. Remarkably, the only one standing in Utley's way is a single Chicago cop, Suze Figueroa.

Utley is the kind of over-the-top villain who'll shoot anyone in the head at the slightest sound of a sneeze, the variety of maniacal evil suited to a James Bond feature. D'Amato depends all-too-much on an assumed distaste for big business, and plays off of common fictional stereotypes of powerful industry bigwigs to justify his antagonist's actions. Utley is just plain unmotivated. He's evil, little more. He doesn't even have the usually outrageous motivations of mad criminal (i.e., avenging the death of a childhood pet). Nothing. The quality of any thriller like this depends on some form of credible insanity, which is completely absent in Dean Utley.

To her credit, D'Amato does paint a good picture of Chicago, and the action sequences are more than plausible. Utley's plan for world domination at least is believable, making that part of the villainy work. Officer Figueroa is a capable heroine, and is suited as the heavy underdog in this David vs. Goliath tale. If only this book's Goliath had more personality.

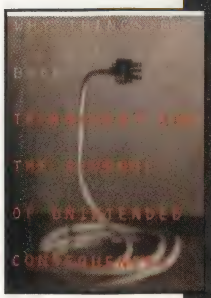
—Rob Kozlowski

Cyberkiss
by Sally Chapman
St. Martin's Press
$21.95
★★

Cyberkiss is a sheep in wolf's clothing: a traditional detective story masquerading as a cyberthriller, with a big topping of unconsciously cheesy jokes. The heroes of the book are an "opposites attract" couple with a brand-new computer security business. Julie is tense, scrappy and prone to wisecracking; her partner and lover, Vic, is a relaxed and studly ex-NSA spook. They are put on the case of a young nerd, "a textbook example of the species known as Silicon Valley Techno-Dweeb Maximus," who is being stalked by an evil dominatrix through an anonymous remailer. People start dying, and after one murder, Julie dramatically observes that the victim "had ended up as roadkill on the Information Superhighway." It soon becomes clear that the murders have a lot more to do with the secrets of a prominent biological engineering company than the kinky 'net-lives of its employees. Your typical romance novel has more titillation than *Cyberkiss*, and if it's that sort of thing you're looking for, you'd be much better off in alt.sex.bondage. The book is a fairly entertaining read and the plot is tight enough, however the Internet is referred to rather stiffly and laboriously, and the tone of jesting bravado can wear on one's nerves. Recommended only for those who are already addicted to regular thrillers, because "cyber" doesn't have much to do with it at all.

—Sarah Ellerman

Why Things Bite Back: Technology and the Revenge of Unintended Consequences
by Edward Tenner
Knopf
$26.00
★★★★½



With all the advances in science, technology and medicine over the last century, why does it feel like the quality of our lives has stagnated? Edward Tenner examines this paradox in his new book, *Why Things Bite Back*. The work examines specific cases of advancement, that have consequently made our lives worse—or as Tenner calls them, revenge effects. For instance, computers in the workplace carry all sorts of promise for increased productivity, yet Tenner notes, "the more powerful systems become, the more human time it takes to maintain them, to develop the software, to resolve bugs and conflicts, to learn new versions, to fiddle with options." Tenner's amazingly well-researched examples of revenge effects run the gamut from: observations on the correlation between improved football equipment and the worsening of football injuries, to a re-telling of the Chernobyl incident which ironically happened during a test of new safety procedures. In fact, the ideal time to read Tenner's book may be while waiting for a site to load, considering the "revenge effects" of Netscape frames and Java applets.

—Alex Gordon

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Do you run a 'zine? An e-zine? An independent comic or comic site on the Web? This is the conference for you. Join 1,000 other like-minded independent publishers, artists and fans to share your work, network and discover how to do what you love better at the third annual...

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AMONG THE SPEAKERS:
JAMES O'BARR,
CREATOR OF *THE CROW*

EDDIE CAMPBELL
ARTIST OF *FROM HELL*

sponsored in part by *Internet Underground*

U-Direct, the official publication of the UPC/ICE will publish a program guide complete with a schedule of events, speaker's bios, pictures and a listing of all exhibitors with their mailing info. You can be a part of it! *U-Direct* seeks submissions of comics, black-and-white art, poetry, fiction and four-color cover art. We also seek interviews, articles, how-tos, resources and anything that pertains to independent/underground media. Contact Batya Goldman at udweinbe@uxa.ecn.bgu.edu

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☐ I can't come, but here's some stuff to give away at the conference
☐ I'll be there and drop stuff off to give away
☐ Please sign me up for the open mic poetry session (up to seven minutes)
☐ I can't come, but review my _____in *U-Direct*
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All package prices include general admission; a ticket for the Bob Shop's Saturday Night Network Party; a 1-year subscription to *U-Direct* and at least one review of your publications, videos or films, CDs or tapes; listing in the publisher's index and use of all or part of an 8' x 30" exhibit table. *The $uccessful Self-Publisher* by Dorothy Kavka and Dan Heisse (UPC/ICE speakers), normally $19.95 will be available to exhibitors for $15.
Sign me up for:
☐ $30 to share a group table (with up to three other exhibitors)
☐ $45 for half a table (sharing with one other exhibitor)
☐ $80 for a full table all to myself!

(Behind Closed Doors)

403 Forbidden

Modern Wiccans Seek to Educate Online

BY SILVER STORM

Bell, Baud and Candle

All my life, I have felt that the religion I was born into wasn't what I truly was. Six years ago, my beliefs acquired a name: Wicca. After hearing that name, I finally discovered my true path. I began to read all I could on the subject of Wicca. As time passed, I discovered the Internet, which provided me with a connection to others with similar beliefs. A whole new world opened before me as I visited sites on this subject matter. The one that most impressed me was "Minerva's Guide to the Mystical Internet," which is now a link off my page.

After viewing Minerva's site, I felt the urge to create my own. I logged on to my provider and found out that an automatic page writer had been installed. I tried it, and that became the original template for my page. Except for that template, my page was created from scratch. I have never used an HTML utility program; I try to be resourceful.

Since the day I started it in November 1995, my page has grown tremendously. It started with just a few links and some information about myself. Now it has FAQs and information from my *Book of Shadows*, a personalized journal and book of Wiccan traditions, laws, recipes, magic and holidays. I have also included some simple spell work, laws of magic, how I got my start in Wicca and a sample self-initiation ritual.

Over the past few months, I have received a large volume of e-mail from all sorts of people. Some write to say that they enjoyed my page, or that it has helped them on a higher level. I welcome all questions and comments, and even constructive criticism, as long as it is all done in a positive and educated way. I try to answer all e-mail, but unfortunately it is difficult to, even rare, for me to maintain lasting conversations over the Internet all the time.

I try to update the page as often as possible, checking out links, adding new ones and adding new information as the inspiration hits me. Future plans for the page include more FAQs and personal information. I have also been 'conjuring' up the idea of teaching a basic class on Wicca through e-mail. Nothing too fancy in the beginning; the idea is still in its infancy.

I'm not here to proselytize, or convert others into Wicca. I merely wish to help educate those who willingly seek knowledge of Wicca. Wicca is not the one and true path to the divine, but to those who are sincerely interested or just curious to find out about it in general, the information is there. This is the most prevalent reason that Wicca is misunderstood: the lack of information. I'm not out to disprove anyone, merely inform the misinformed in a positive way.

A friend on the Internet once described all the religions of the world as a wagon wheel. Each spoke of the wheel is a religion, the center of the wheel is the divine entity. We believe that everyone should have the freedom to practice as they choose. It is beliefs that keep us going as individuals, no matter what these beliefs are.

Silver Storm, Solitary Wiccan
"Candles, Herbs, Cats, Light & Laughter: A Wiccan Homepage"
http://www.prairienet.org/~halfelf/homepage.html

The Final Word On Spam

LAST MONTH'S FLAMETHROWER GETS BAKED.

FLAMETHROWER (Skewering The Faulty)

The article in *Internet Underground's* July issue was a tremendous step back in the fight to keep the Internet readable. For those who missed it, the article discusses the Internet 'Red Pages,' the short-lived brainchild of occasional spam collaborator and full-time telephone and Internet service provider Larry Host. "The Red Pages," explained the article, was a list similar to the Direct Mail Association's "do not mail to" list, where Internet users could post their names if they didn't want to be on the receiving end of what's becoming the junk mail and intrusive telephone solicitation of the 21st century.

Unfortunately, at this point the author's train of thought jumped its tracks and headed off on an intercept course with pure fantasy. It was somehow implied that spam opponents were *against* this list, based on the reactions of a few people. The article painted those who would like to avoid getting bombarded with low-budget advertising as "crazed," "unreasonable," "preach[ing]," "self-important," "radicals" and "ninnies" and turned a serious issue for administrators and netizens everywhere into a childish name-calling session.

Of course, it is not surprising that Host's Red Pages met with the criticism that it did. The announcement came at the end of an unwelcome advertisement, and Jeff Slaton's "help" came with a $5 "computer search" in order to get your request honored (Slaton, being the self-proclaimed "SpAm KiNg"). Spam recipients were justifiably angry at *anyone* involved with the scam, and I for one was suspicious of an offer to add my name and address to a list put together by someone who spams for a living. And despite his promise, Slaton spammed addresses on the Red Pages anyway. A good idea, done-in traitorously by the very entity it was trying to save.

When Host approached Slaton with the Red Pages as a possible compromise between spammers and spamees, Slaton played him for a fool; turning it into yet another opportunity to attract undeserving attention to himself, enrage and annoy network administrators and revel in the ire of others. Portraying Slaton as someone with any degree of "respect" for the wishes of others is absurd. His most recent and common response to such requests has been (direct quote) "bend over and take it in the ASS like a man! I would suggest petroleum jelly as the proper lubricant! and a trademark 'Swueeeeeee!' hog call" (I wish I were making this up).

Slaton sells his software and services to an almost exclusively naive public. I cannot count the number of times I have seen users lamenting that "if only [they] had known," they would never have done it. During his brief stint as the "SpAm KiNg," I was only aware of *one* customer who did not label him as some species of criminal or scam artist, and I know of *no* instances of any repeat business. His only positive support has come in the blatant forgeries of testimonials from fictitious "minority businessmen" with short-lived accounts who respond to critical e-mail with suspiciously familiar hog calls.

At the age of 40, with waning promise and hairline, Slaton took on his mid-life crisis with all the grace of a wounded bull elephant. Supplementing an insecurity in his waning youth with waxing childishness and immaturity, he has made a reputation, and what could only laughably be referred to as a "career," out of the harassment and annoyance of Internet users everywhere. He lies to friends, enemies, business associates, customers and administrators alike to make a quick buck, and stays in business only through the smooth-talking skills he acquired at a former job as a car salesman.

Charlatans once toured the country selling tapeworm eggs as "diet pills," and medications containing radium or opium as a universal panacea. Slaton's modern-day scam is only slightly better. Unlike the work of his predecessors, his deception won't actually kill you, but you don't have to buy his bitter pills to feel sick for a long while.

Soren Ragsdale is the keeper of the complete *Netizen's Guide to Spam, Abuse, and Internet Advertising* at **http://com.primenet.com/spamking**.

by Soren Ragsdale

>FAQ

Name: John Relph
Age: 33
Gender: Male
Home: Los Altos, Calif.
E-mail address: relph@sgi.com

EACH MONTH WE PROFILE PEOPLE WHO OVERSEE NEWSGROUPS OR TAKE ON THE NORMALLY THANKLESS TASK OF COMPILING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION FILES. THIS MONTH WE LOOKED AT THE FAQ DEVOTED TO OFF-BEAT ROCKERS THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS. THE FAQ IS AVAILABLE AT: http://reality.sgi.com/employees/relph/music/TMBG-FAQ.html

Can you explain alt.music.tmbg and its purpose?
Nope. But seriously, alt.music.tmbg is theoretically a forum for discussion of They Might Be Giants, the alternative pop band.

How did you get involved with it?
I have been a fan of They Might Be Giants since 1987 and have been using the 'net since the 'net has been around, so it's no surprise I would put the two together and get involved.

Do you have a day job?
Yes, I am employed by Silicon Graphics, and I am a software engineer.

What's a typical conversation thread like?
It usually starts off with a simple question and quickly dissolves into a number of unrelated and oft times nonsensical topics. Such is the nature of They Might Be Giants and their fans.

What is your favorite TMBG song and why?
Perhaps, "Where Your Eyes Don't Go." Why? I like the paradoxical lyrics, the bits and pieces of different songs stuck together to make a coherent whole and it's just plain fun.

What's the oddest thing that had to be addressed in the alt.music.tmbg FAQ?
I think that would have to be "Who is 'dead uncle allotheria'?" In the song "Mammal," the Johns reel off a number of scientific names for mammals, and there were questions about just to what they were referring.

What's the strangest thing (or couple of things) that you've seen online?
That's hard to say, but the "body modifications" pages are up there. I really like the "Catacombs of Paris" page, complete with pictures of long-dead skulls and other bones.

What can people get kicked out of the group for?
SPAMMING is the top offense. I hate getting unsolicited and untraceable advertisements and chain letters. Being completely and totally obnoxious and abusive is the next biggest problem.

Are flames common in your group?
Yes and no. There are many minor flare-ups, usually brought on by ignorance and intolerance. Not too many wildfires.

Does the conversation typically stay on the topic or how has it wandered in the past?
It wanders, lord how it wanders. It's always off the subject!

How long do you typically spend maintaining the FAQ?
A few hours per week, but most of that time is devoted to maintaining Web pages.

What are you wearing?
A seriously faded pair of ostensibly black tie-up sport trousers, a very faded and very old surf shirt in bright blue, and a pair of light green Vans that has seen better days. And of course, my wedding ring.

What's your favorite thing to munch on when you surf?
You mean Websurf? Considering that I'm munching one now, I'd say bagels.

Are you a dog person or a cat person? Or do you prefer an alternative pet?
Dog! Check out my dog's home page (**http://reality.sgi.com/relph/tycho.html**).

What are your favorite places to hang out on the 'net?
My own pages! But you knew I'd say that. I like the TommyCam at the University of Southern California (**http://www.usc.edu/**). I use various search engines, such as **http://altavista.digital.com/** and **http://guide.infoseek.com/NS/**, for example. I tend to surf for information and documentation rather than for pleasure.

Where do you think the Internet is going and how will it affect society?
If legislation is passed barring free speech, then it will become just another avenue for corporations to suck our money. If creative anarchy is allowed to continue, then I think it will bring people all over the world closer together. Information is power, ignorance is death. And since the Internet can provide access to information, it can rescue people from ignorance.

On the other hand, it is currently restricted to an elite, and those without access will continue to lose power and influence in today's society, thus enlarging the ranks of the underclass. Thus I support providing 'net access to those who might otherwise be denied it and I support the effort to get all of the nation's schools connected.

What would people be surprised to find out about you?
That I'm really a Luddite at heart? That I've never owned a PC? That I have never tasted Jäegermeister? I really don't have a good answer for that question.

Finally, why is alt.music.tmbg important?
It keeps otherwise rabid and dangerous fans off the street. It provides an outlet and solace for those who feel alone in a world of mainstream, force-fed, MTV-powered top-forty music. It spreads the gospel of TMBG. It keeps the people in alt.music.alternative from getting pissed off at the TMBG fans. It's yet another thread in the fabric of the Internet; don't let it unravel.

WebGuide

The WebGuide is merely a packet of seeds for your synapse garden, not a fully grown plant. Each review, if you will, is a seed. We plant these seeds, and through you they soon become blossoming flora. How do you get flora from the seeds? Water them with ideas. "Streams" of consciousness. Each WebGuide entry will spark your synapses to locate information long stored away in your mind. Whether you notice it or not, you'll make strange little connections. For example, when you read our Johnny Cash Home Page review, your mind will deliver a list of terms familiar and specific to you in relation to Mr. Cash, such as velour, Vegas, that cheap hotel, that fifth of "Jack," Betty and her jealous boyfriend. It's easy. Just pay attention to these random thoughts, use them to find more information and you'll have your tree of knowledge in no time.

► **72 CATHOCELLULOID**
A whirlwind tour of what's on the other screens.

► **73 CELEBRITIES**
A visual, virtual gossip column.

► **74 THE 3 R'S**
Riotous, revealing and revivifying. And you may just learn a thing or two.

► **75 JOCKS**
Sports: something you must abandon your computer to participate in.

► **76 TUNEAGE**
Satisfy your aural fixation.

► **77 BANDWIDTH**
Your guide to getting the most out of the 'net.

► **78-79 ZINES**
What to read after devouring *Internet Underground*.

► **80 AMUSEMENTS**
The great time-waster. If it's useless and fun, and threatens your sanity or employment status, you'll find it here.

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER'S HOME PAGE

http://www.act-sfbay.com/

This Tony Award-winning San Francisco theater's home page is a well-organized presentation of current and past performance information, special events and links to other theater sites on the Web. Although mostly textual, the few images found here take an eon to load. We suggest you float around the links and pretty much ignore the graphics. Reserve tickets, become a member of the Conservatory Theater or sign up for the mailing list to get a brochure to apply to study theater online. The actual performance info is limited, compared to the numerous links for membership.

Webmaster: Andrew Ku

★★★

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE

http://www.afionline.org/

The American Film Institute originated in 1965 as an independent, not-for-profit establishment of the National Endowment of the Arts. The Institute was created to educate television and film students. The Web site delivers background on the Institute, course descriptions, event and festival information and more. The Institute's specialty—film preservation—has an in-depth section that is highly informative. Course requirements and admission information can be found here online. Mostly textual.

Webmaster: Feedback@afionline.org

★★★

THE BEWITCHED AND ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY HOME PAGE

http://www.erols.com/bewitchd/

Call us hexed, we loved it! This site is a devotion to the enchanting '60s television series *Bewitched*. Sound clips including entire songs, images, memorabilia, segments from a random chat session with Mr. Whipple, aka Dick Wilson, and *I Dream of Jeannie*'s Barbara Eden and

many other unique features are brewing here. The starry background is bold, but not intrusive. It complements a well-organized presentation of predictable television trivia, with some extras, such as archived *Bewitched* proof sheets and an early draft of the original pilot. The site is charming—don't fall under its spell for too long.

Webmaster: bewitchd@erols.com

★★★★★

HORRENDOUS!

http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/4605/

Billed as an online zine of sorts, *Horrendous!* is a Web site dedicated to the horror film genre. From *Planet of Blood* to *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*, the Webmaster reviews and summarizes all such flicks. The site is mostly

textual, with the exception of well-designed graphics that adorn the index pages. The reviews are carefully developed and well written. The number of reviews available at this point is somewhat limited, but the wealth of information found in each is worth looking into. Links to other horror sites included.

Webmaster: Matt Bradshaw

★★★★

IN SEARCH OF...

http://users.aol.com/wehoke/iso/iso.html

Exploring science and seeking discovery of the unknown, this site is dedicated to the Leonard Nimoy-hosted television series *In Search Of...*. The design and presentation of the site could use some help since the images are poorly

reproduced and slow-loading, but the content is thought-provoking and interesting. The episode guide is listed alphabetically by title; however, title is all you'll find. You must go "in search of" further information from other Web sources. Links, audio clips and re-enactments are also found here.

Webmaster: Wehoke@aol.com

★★★

JEOPARDY!

http://www.spe.sony.com/Pictures/tv/jeopardy/jeopardy.html

What is a really dull site? The *Jeopardy!* home page is a part of the Sony Entertainment site and is mostly a promotional page with a tiny sampler of the game show itself to whet your appetite. Play the *Jeopardy!* contest as it prompts you to answer one question and check your response a week later when a new clue is made available. The bulk of content here is the QuickTime movies and audio bytes, including the famous theme song. If you've always wanted a picture of Alex Trebek in a gold frame, now is your chance. You can download images of the set and "Alex in action," to go with that snazzy *Jeopardy!* screensaver you can get for free online.

Webmaster: Sony Online

★★★

KILLING ZOE

http://w3.nationalnet.com/~berube/kill_zoe.htm

This Web site is a tribute to the Roger Avary/Quentin Tarantino film, a bank-robbing, drug-using and gun-brandishing kill-flick, starring Julie Delpy and Eric Stoltz. The site is well-designed, but does not give a lot of useful film information, not even a brief synopsis. You can check out a lot of images and sound bites from the film, but unless you've seen it, these features will just seem like garnish for a missing entree. Our advice: Check out the film, and *then* visit the site.

Webmaster: berube@nationalnet.com

★★★

PLANET SOAP

http://www.primenet.com/~plntsoap/

Planet Soap is a revolving door to daytime, nighttime and online soap opera home pages. In addition, Planet Soap is a news source for soap events and celebrity appearances nationwide. Now you'll never have to worry about missing Susan Lucci's autograph signing at the mall. Also, each month a random soap star is highlighted as the celebrity profile, replete with images, a bio and more vital stats than you'll know what to do with. If just watching soap operas isn't enough, you can link to the soap newsgroups from this site as well.

Webmaster: Tom Scheibe

★★★★

SILENT MOVIES

http://www.cs.monash.edu.au/~pringle/silent/

This site is an excellent source for silent film information, from titles, viewing locations and silent film-star profiles to links to other similar resources on the Web. The silent film schedule page lists locations and show times of silent movies playing in a particular area. One disappointment: The site doesn't have images from any of the actual films. However, links to individual film and celebrity sites contain photos and movie stills on occasion. The site is mostly textual, small and manageable. Not surprisingly, you'll find no audio files here, only a textual page dedicated to music's role in silent films.

Webmaster: Glen Pringle

★★★★

TRAINSPOTTING

http://www.webcom.com/reeduk/trnspot/home.html

Trainspotting, originally a novel by Irvine Welsh, inspired this summers film by the same name. The site promotes the film by way of introducing portions of the book and a touch of the author himself. Various links to heroin/drug help resources, AIDS organizations and random rock 'n' roll sites are listed within frames on the home page. The site does not thoroughly explain the film in all its drug-infested splendor, but it does recreate the dark atmosphere of the film by aligning with real-life issues instead of garnishing with Hollywood hoopla.

Webmaster: Jennifer Smith

★★★

THE UNOFFICIAL PICKET FENCES HOME PAGE

http://www.lewis.edu/fences/fences.html

The home page for this television series is as straightforward as the show itself. The information is neatly categorized by cast, images, sounds, episode guide, FAQ and newsgroups. The specific episode information sections are rich with detail and often times link to other sources on the Web. But, the best feature here is the, "Emma Quayle Picket Fences Drinking Game." It's easy to play. Just take a drink each time Judge Bone says "Get Out!" or "Wambaugh refers to his being Jewish." Sound files featured include the theme song.

Webmaster: Jeff Mealiffe

★★★★★

BOB BARKER

http://www.cbs.com/daytime/price/custbios/barker.html

It's no surprise that Bob Barker, the host of the immensely popular television game show, *The Price is Right*, has a sizable profile on the CBS home page. It's even less surprising that his legal battle with one of his game show glamour-girl assistants is not a feature on the site. However, you can find out lots of other Barker tidbits, such as the fact that he excels at lying around in the sun and that his favorite comic strip is *Marmaduke*. Another interesting fact is that Barker resigned from the television show *The Patsy Awards* when he learned that "Trainers frequently use cruel methods to force animals to perform." We don't suppose that that same tactic could be used to motivate game show assistants, could it?

Webmaster: marketing@cbs.com

★★★

JOHNNY CASH

http://www.catt.ncsu.edu/www_projects/Cash/cash.html

"The man in black" walks online. You don't have to go to Vegas to cash in on Johnny Cash-sized entertainment. The home page is a lot less expensive than shacking up at the MGM Grand, and you won't have to fight blue-haired ladies for a good seat. The site may be better suited in our Tuneage section, but Cash, a member of country music's "Dream Team," is first and foremost a celebrity performer. This site features Cash's career highlights, a biography, a list of his greatest hits and tour information, directly from the source, his label American Recordings. Links to Johnny Cash CDs online are also available so you can order anytime. Music samples would have made this site complete.

Webmaster: Greg Cohoon

★★★★

CELEBRITY GRAVE RUBBINGS

http://huihoa.com/AlphaWeb/celebrity/

This site may be retail, but anyone who spends his or her time rubbing celebrity graves for charcoal-on-rice-paper-impressions to sell to the public deserves AT LEAST a WebGuide mention. The artist sells, for $19.95 minus shipping and handling, impressions of the tombstones of Marilyn Monroe, Bruce Lee and Jimi Hendrix. If the charcoal print isn't enough, you can "Create your own masterpiece" by selecting celebrity stamps to be framed with the gravestone image. If you just don't believe it, check out the images of the artist at work. The site contains many images, so you'll get an idea of what you're buying before you place your order.

Webmaster: steve@hula.net

★★★

THE CELEBRITY REDHEAD HOME PAGE

http://ucsee.eecs.berkeley.edu/~mcnguyen/redheads.html

This is no equal opportunity site. If she isn't a redhead, forget it. This site is a collection of images of famous redheads from Lauren Holly to Nicole Kidman. You won't find a lot of substance here, just a bunch of pictures and the Webmaster's self-professed Web site fame. Most of the celebs here have their own exclusive page. However, the less popular, but redheaded just the same, stars share a page where only one image is included for each person. The celebs featured here are mostly contemporary.

Webmaster: Mike Nguyen

★★★

JULIA CHILD-UNCENSORED

http://wwwpersonal.washtenaw.cc.mi.us/~ssusnick/julia/

"You should have pot. Pot of scum. Grandpa, with relish." Another surrealist rant? No, it's the "Julia Child speaks her mind" home page, a site that is a short order of sound bites from the renowned wine-drinking, food-dropping gourmet known for her blunt, uninhibited remarks. You can listen to Child making statements while cooking that, according to the creator of this site, reveal a raunchy, saucy side of the cook. This site is an appetizer, not an entree. After a few bites, your appetite will be satisfied, so there's no need to clean the entire plate.

Webmaster: Kim Scarborough

★★★

THE FAMOUS JEWS HOME PAGE

http://grove.ufl.edu/~rmcolker/jews.html

This site is an A-to-Z directory of famous Jews from various backgrounds. An alphabetical directory prompts you to click on a name to reveal an image of that celebrity and brief biography stating what he or she is known and recognized for. The types of celebrities found here range from the inventor of the Polio vaccine, Jonas Salk to actress Winona Ryder. A notable feature is the voting option. You may submit a famous person you believe to be Jewish, or you may "vote" for other nominees. The site is a combination of images and text and is well-designed.

Webmaster: Ryan Colker

★★★★

MARTHA GRAHAM

http://cri.enslyon.fr/~esouche/danse/Graham.html

The Martha Graham home page is an offshoot from this Webmaster's incredibly thorough dance home pages. The site is a remarkably lengthy dedication to the dancer and choreographer Martha Graham, often referred to as, "The mother of modern dance." She is best known for the performances *Letters to the World*, *Diversion of Angels* and *Night Journey*. The site features Graham quotes taken from her book, *Blood Memory*, and a sweeping biography of Graham's life and achievements in dance. A listing of her ballets, some with detailed information on a particular performance, is a useful resource presented chronologically. A few images are available, although the site is largely textual.

Webmaster: Estelle Souche

★★★★★

TEA LEONI HOME PAGE

http://cyberus.com/tealeoni/

This tribute to the actress recently recognized for her starring role in the television series *The Naked Truth*, in which she plays a photo-journalist at a tabloid newspaper, and her role as Tina, the counselor-in-training in *Flirting with Disaster*. It's a solid mix of images and content. The site features a brief biography, film and television credits, a fan page where you can post messages to the star for the entire world to read and many images of the actress as well as a few audio bites. The site is well-designed and entertaining.

Webmaster: tealeoni@cyberus.com

★★★★★

FAMOUS MARRIED COUPLES

http://us.imdb.com/Couples/

Maintaining this site must be a full-time job. Even a weekly update couldn't begin to keep up with all of the Hollywood break-ups and make-ups. Fortunately, this site is a section of the Internet Movie Database home page, which is immensely large and popular, and likewise, well-maintained. An alphabetical index allows you to select a letter to view a list of celebrities and their spouses. This site only includes famous people married to other famous people, so the couple's names link to Internet Movie Database biographies of each person. Mostly textual.

Webmaster: Internet Movie Database, Ltd.

★★★★

BENNY HINN

http://www.bennyhinn.org/

This site is fairly impressive, no doubt a reflection of the financial success of televangelist Benny Hinn's massive Media Ministries. Anything you want to know about Benny Hinn, his television shows, products and crusades can be found here. You can also submit a prayer request. Beware though, submitting prayers may get you nothing more than a spot on the mailing list. Be sure to check out the naked dancing...oh, never mind, that was Benny Hill.

Webmaster: webmaster@bennyhinn.org

★★★★★

BERNADETTE PETERS WEB PAGE

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/cosmocat/peters.htm

The Broadway singer and performer Bernadette Peters, best known for her roles in *Into the Woods* and *Pennies from Heaven*, is in the spotlight on this Web site. The site is a single page containing categorized lists of Peters' films, theatrical performances, television series and appearances, audio recordings and biographical information in chronological order. There aren't any links, images or other pages here. This site is like a movie set backdrop...it looks good on the surface, but surface is all you get. Of note is the fact that the Webmaster did not include images of Peters on the site because he or she doesn't own rights to any and is worried that Senator Exon may "stop by." Boo-hiss.

Webmaster: bg380@scn.org

★★★

CLASSROOM CONNECT: CITING INTERNET ADDRESSES

http://www.classroom.net/classroom/CitingNetResources.htm

Every time a new medium makes its way into academia, a great debate over how to cite the information surfaces. This site features an article from the publication *Classroom Connect* that illustrates the new academic standard for electronic citation, according to an ad-hoc committee of educators. Structure explanations with examples are given, illustrating e-mail, Gopher, ftp, Telnet, Web, Usenet groups and IRC citations. The site is textual with links to other electronic citation Web sites, such as Modern Language Association and university sites.

Webmaster: dbolin@classroom.net

★★★★

CLIFF SHAFFER'S HEMP PAGE

http://www.calyx.net/~schaffer/hemp/hempmenu.html

Cliff Shaffer has created an extensive hemp, or cannabis or marijuana, archive. The site is not a diary of pot-smoking adventures, but rather an educated, responsible look at medical uses, personality trait absorption, court cases, chronic migraine treatment and health and psychological consequences of cannabis use. The site is textual, with many essays from doctors, educators and writers such as William F. Buckley. A highlight of the site is the list of 100 marijuana myths, such as it "damages your reproductive system" and "lingers in the body like DDT."

Webmaster: Cliff Shaffer

★★★★

THE ELECTRIC PROFESSOR

http://www.electricprof.com

The Electric Professor is actually a professor of human language and cognition. He set up this Web site to tutor individuals in his area of expertise. That's not the only reason he took up HTML; he wants to earn some cash, Net Cash, checks or money orders to be specific. Think of Lucy, from *Peanuts*, and her "Advice" booth. You get the picture. The exchanges take place via e-mail and are answered within 24 hours. English language questions are billed at $2 each. Even though you can pack 30 on one e-mail message, you must still pay individually. Education questions are billed per-consultation, in which several "closely related" questions may be answered at the E-Professor's discretion. One advantage you'll have here over actual universities is that you won't be charged for questions the Electric Professor can't answer.

Webmaster: electricprof@electricprof.com

Rating withheld *(We want to see how he does with our questions first)*

INROADS INTO HARLEM

http://chat.carleton.ca/~obollman/hosd/main.html

The Harlem Project home page is the work of four architecture students with the goal of improving the Harlem community from "The spectre of poverty," as they've deemed it. The page's highlights include: the history of the New York neighborhood, an analysis of contemporary Harlem in its social and economic condition, plans for improvement and illustrations in the form of black and white photos, contemporary Harlem images and well-designed maps and building plans. Like many student projects, "Inroads into Harlem" may not live far beyond graduation, but it is a noble effort that will hopefully come to fruition.

Webmasters: obollman@chat.carleton.ca
hsemple@chat.carleton.ca
dyates@chat.carleton.ca
scoles@chat.carleton.ca

★★★★★

JOHN KENNEDY TOOLE

http://ernie.bgsu.edu/~jdowell/JKTpage.html

This site is a short and simple tribute to the late John Kennedy Toole, best known for his posthumous Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, which wouldn't have been published without his mom Thelma's persistence. The site contains a piece about Toole's mother, a story of the author's short life, one black-and-white image of Toole, several essays and numerous links to New Orleans points of interest, in the spirit of the novel itself. Mostly textual.

Webmaster: John A. Dowell

★★★

NAMES COMMON TO EUROPEANS

http://www.cae.wisc.edu/~kasab/arm/names/names-idx.html

Whether you're writing a novel, buying a puppy or having a baby, this textual site provides you with lists of names from regions of mythic Europe, circa 1187 A.D. The names on this list were gathered for a role-playing game, Ars Magica. Click on a region from Basque to Welsh, and you will be given a list of names, male and female, such as Usoa and Achim or Avitus. The site does not include name origins or meanings. You'll have to rely on your instincts to pick one properly suited for your beagle.

Webmaster: John Kasab

★★★

NATIONAL ANTI-POACHING FOUNDATION, INC.

http://colorado.on-line.com/ogt/naws.htm

This site is a message from the not-for-profit National Anti-Poaching Foundation, educating people about poaching and the laws regarding the crime. The main function of the site is "to operate and maintain a nationwide toll-free anonymous hotline for reporting violations." The site is a random list of facts about poaching and other information such as how to get in touch with wildlife foundations across the nation that support the cause. Surprisingly, there are no graphics here. You won't find images of elephants without tusks and monkeys without paws, just anti-poaching sentiment without any particular order.

Webmaster: National Anti-Poaching Foundation, Inc.

★★

ULTIMATE BOOK LIST AND WRITER'S PAGE

http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/information_resources/ultimate_book_list.html

The Staff of the Allen County Public Library in Indiana has been working overtime. Their site is a list of resources from writing manuals and exercises to best-seller lists and author resources. One of the many pages gives you the opportunity to discover new authors by looking under the name of an author you already know, and finding a list of others with a similar style you may like. Other links include the Pulitzer site, Children's Literature Awards and booksellers on the Web. Mostly textual, but well-organized and designed. The great part is, you don't need a library card to use it and there are no late fees.

Webmaster: webmaster@www.acpl.lib.in.us

★★★★★

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WATER RESOURCES

http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/

If you've ever wondered where all of your tax money is going, this might answer some of your questions. At the very least you may feel moderately better about your involuntary contribution. From wastewater management, wetlands and watersheds to the American Indian Environmental Office, this site is a graphical and textual combination of facts, projects, maps and images pertaining to water works in the United States. From basic day-to-day water information to monitoring tools, data and scientific research, this site tells all, or at least all "they" want us to know. A list of national hotlines and a searchable database is also included.

Webmaster: OW-GENERAL@epamail.epa.gov

★★★★★

WWWPOP ART INDEX

http://www.fi.muni.cz/~toms/PopArt/contents.html

It's a remarkable lesson in pop art, but this site is not for art neophytes. The Index will, without a doubt, teach you a great deal about the origin of, philosophy behind and names associated with pop art. But unless you're already a bit familiar with the movement, you won't be able to recognize pop art any better after perusing this site because there are no images here. Biographies, career synopses and features of artists such as Christo, Robert Rauschenberg, David Hockney and Andy Warhol are very informative but incomplete without sample works. The site is filled with essays and general history but would benefit from illustrations.

Webmaster: Tom Staudek

★★★★

THE BILLIARD CONGRESS OF AMERICA

http://www.netins.net/showcase/bcahome/

The BCA home page is a thorough billiards resource. Tournament and trade show information, a virtual visit to the Billiard Hall of Fame and the opportunity to join the organization online are some of the features. The site is attractive, even though it does take some time to completely load. Other associations' home pages and numerous links to related information are also included. An interesting feature is the News and Publications link. This resource will keep you

up to date on billiard activities and events nationwide. Swing by the Marketplace to check out equipment and merchandise sources.

Webmaster: Sven Davies

★★★★★

BOB & DAVE'S WIFFLEBALL HOMEPAGE

http://home.ptd.net/~murray49/wiffle.html

Neither Bob nor Dave will be confused for a professional Webmaster or a major leaguer, but they have transformed their backyard ballgames into the premier wiffleball site on the Web. With detailed instructions on "How to Pitch a Wiffleball," a condensed rulebook and history of the sport, Bob and Dave's wiffle knowledge and love of the game outweighs the site's murky, dismal design. The site also features a map of Bob and Dave's backyard in Atlas, Penn., and lengthy descriptions of their most recent pennant race. But before you run off to challenge these masters of the game, be forewarned—Dave smashed 137 homers last year.

Webmaster: Bob Murray

★★★

THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

http://www.harlemglobetrotters.com/index.html

These ambassadors of basketball have taken their show on the road to nearly every country in the world and have performed their high-flying dunks and slick ball handling for popes and queens. Unfortunately they only

provide a taste of their extensive and entertaining history online. Meadowlark Lemon, the most famous Globetrotter of all, is only mentioned once and the site begs for some video files. However the site does provide detailed profiles of all of the current players, trivia, a complete schedule and a full line of Globetrotter merchandise. The Web is no substitute for seeing these guys at the gym, but this site is sure to leave you whistling "Sweet Georgia Brown" long after you've surfed elsewhere.

Webmaster: Globetrotters' management

★★★

INTERNATIONAL FRISBEE HALL OF FAME

http://www.sas.it.mtu.edu/~dkwalika/frisbee/Hall.html

Who said playing Frisbee wasn't serious? John Dwork received a Bachelor of Arts in Frisbee from Hampshire College (Mass.), in 1984, according to the information on the International Frisbee Hall of Fame home page. The Hall of Fame is located in Lake Linden, Mich., but the site is an easily accessible collection featuring Frisbee information such as the name and history of the person who invented the device to long-standing members of the Hall of Fame and recent inductees. If reading about it just doesn't satisfy your desire to be there, check out the video footage of the Hall online. Links to other related sites included. Mostly textual.

Webmaster: dkwalika@mtu.edu

★★★★

INTERNET MOUNTAIN BIKE SLANG DICTIONARY

http://www.skidmore.edu/%7Ebrunning/slang.html

Admittedly adopted from the rec.bicycle.off-road newsgroup, this Web page is a part of a larger biking site and features an alphabetical index of mountain biking slang terms. The long list gives the meaning of sayings and terms such as "Death cookies," which are "Fist-sized rocks that knock your bike in every direction but the one you want to proceed in," and "Tea party," meaning "When a whole group of riders stops and chats, and nobody seems to want to ride on." This is the definitive guide for hanging out with bikers and not sounding like a total fred. The terms given range from technical biking phrases to less-serious, humorous terms.

Webmaster: Ben

★★★★

LEGENDS OF KICKBOXING

http://www.kickbox.com/

Unless you spend a lot of money on pay-per-view TV, you may not be familiar with such all-time kickboxing greats Stan "The Man" Loginidis, Pete "Sugarfoot" Cunningham or Pixie "The Quiet Tiger" Elmore. The site provides the opportunity for you to meet the greatest men and women of kickboxing, listen to them speak and watch them beat up on each other. And if you can't wait for these "superstars'" next bit parts in Mortal Kombat VI, there are plenty of videos to order. With $20 million and a pony tail, Ricky "The Mongoose" Valentin just might be the next Steven Seagal.

Webmaster: Intercat

★★

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUES

http://www.minorleaguebaseball.com/

Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jacks and surf on over to this comprehensive chronicle of everything that is minor league baseball. From the Albuquerque Dukes to the Yakima Bears, this site catalogs every minor league team's logo, schedule, big-league affiliation, stadium location and front-office personnel. It also keeps up-to-date standings, daily scores, pitching matchups and attendance records for every league in the minors, Rookie through AAA. Who needs the overpriced players, seats or hot dogs of the big leagues, when you can root, root, root for home teams like the Hickory Crawdads or the Lansing Lugnuts?

Webmaster: napbl@intNet.net

★★★★★

SPANISH WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

http://www.cdmedia.es/basket.htm

Until the women's NBA gets off the ground stateside, hardcore fans of women's professional basketball must travel across the Atlantic for their fix. But now photos, team rosters, records and statistics of the Spanish women's league are available online. Finally, there's no need to wait to hear from your cousin in Barcelona to find

out how Costa Naranja did in the championship game. Of course, unless you're fluent in Spanish and the metric system, this site might present a few hurdles.

Webmaster: sug@cdmedia.es

★★★

WHITE COLLAR BOXING HOME PAGE

http://www.conline.com:80/~wcboxing

"The workout of a fighter without the fight." Sounds too good to be legal. This site is dedicated to the fitness "craze" that started deep in the heart of Texas. White collar boxing is a martial art-style fitness program that "combines strength and cardiovascular training, while improving agility and balance." You can learn a lot about it at this site, but the extent of your involvement will be reading unless you live near the training center in Dallas. The hard-sell is the "before and after" photo of the Webmaster. Links to other martial arts and boxing sites included in this well-designed, interesting site.

Webmaster: Jeff Overturf

★★★★

WWW SNOOKER

http://www.ifi.uio.no/~hermunda/Snooker/

Snooker is the best thing to come from England since Herman's Hermits. Well, it may not be the next British Invasion, but Europe's most popular billiards game is still a better sport than horseshoes. If Hermund Ardalen's guide to the sport is any indication, pool halls across the country may soon be inundated with the "reds" and "colors." He provides a detailed rule book, extensive profiles of the world's best snooker players, statistics and a tour diary. 160 countries already televise snooker and with the invention of ESPN2, the United States is bound to catch snooker fever. It can't be any worse than watching the royal family.

Webmaster: Hermund Ardalen

★★★★

ABORIGINAL MUSIC PROJECT

http://www.lglobal.com/~amp/

How much more "underground" can it be? Billed as a "Unique organization dedicated to identifying, developing and promoting the Aboriginal music industry," this site is the meeting ground for the Aboriginal Music Project, a non-profit Canadian organization designed to advance the music of the Australian Outback. The page titled, "Rez Rhythms" features Aboriginal music concerts and events. The "Gossip" page contains news and information and the "Wish list" lists all the equipment and materials the organization needs to stay in business. The site is textual and unfortunately doesn't have any audio samples. Numerous links to other Aboriginal music and culture sites are included.

Webmaster: Patrick Kitchen

★★★

FRANK BLACK

http://beaker.nmsu.edu/spaceman/fb/

Frank Black, the former lead singer and lyricist for the Pixies, known for his UFO and paranormal fascination, is the subject of this Web site that appropriately sports outer space wallpaper. Mr. Black is kind of bizarre, but the site is pretty normal. It contains interviews with Black, images of him individually and with the Pixies, lyrics and news updates including latest releases. Be sure to catch the wavs to hear audio samples. The site is well-organized and really easy to get around. The Webmaster also maintains "The Pixies Vault," containing a tome of Pixies information. Surprisingly, there are no *X-Files* links here.

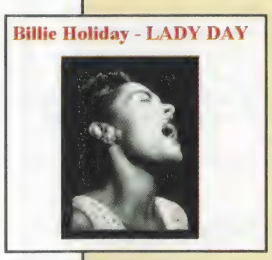
Webmaster:jtarbell@nmsu.edu

★★★★

BILLIE HOLIDAY'S HOME PAGE

http://www.bart.nl/~ecduzit/billy/

"Please don't talk about me when I'm gone." The Lady's" home page may not be, upon first glance, the best visual dedication, but the depth of the content and the numerous pages of images and links makes the site an extraordinary achievement. The Webmaster has compiled discography, recordings, images and Holiday information that will keep you interested for some time. The image gallery presents a versatile collection of Billie photographs that span her career.



Webmaster: ecduzit@bart.nl

★★★★★

JOAN JETT AND THE BLACKHEARTS

http://www.paston.co.uk/blackheart/joanjett/

This site is a very well-designed tribute to the mainstream musical bad girl perhaps best known for the tune, "I Love Rock 'n' Roll." Images of Jett with and without the Blackhearts, a complete discography, biography, fan-club resources, news, chat and much more supply lots of reading and entertainment. Miscellaneous information, such as details of Jett's television appearances and live performances and telephone numbers of radio stations to call to request Joan Jett airplay can also be found here.

Webmaster: Mike Sixsmith

★★★★★

THE LETTERS TO CLEO HOME PAGE

http://www-personal.umich.edu/~hstahl/letters.html

This site is not about postcards sent to a starving child in a third-world country. It's a tribute to the band, Letters to Cleo, recognized for its "Divinyls-like" '80s sound. The home page is an index of links on a violet background. These links present images of the band, lyrics, discography, audio and video clips and guitar transcriptions. This is not a history lesson or an aging biography of the band. Features such as tour dates, fan club updates and chat rooms are available to keep Cleophiles well-informed.

Webmaster: Heath Stahl

★★★

MY LOVESONGS PAGE

http://www.st.nepean.uws.edu.au/users/mbuena/songwords.html

Remember the wonder years? The days when you inscribed sappy love song lyrics on every note you wrote to your significant crush? Remember how there was always one line you just couldn't figure out so you settled for what seemed to be the closest match, one that always sounded totally ridiculous? "Love is a many blendered thing?" This site will help you sort through those tricky lyrics to ensure that you don't make a fool of yourself next time you pass a note to the hottie in chemistry class. Click on a letter of the alphabet to select from a list of choices characterized by song title, album title and musician. Textual.

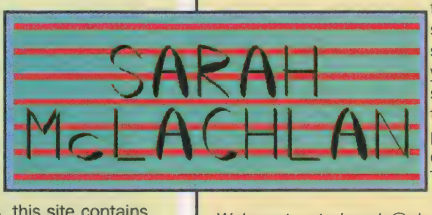
Webmaster: Michael Buenaventura

★★★★

SARAH MCLACHLAN HOME PAGE

http://web.cs.mun.ca/~patrick/sarah/sarah.html

The musician best known for her dreamy crooning is the resident artist at home at this site, but the house is a mess. A huge, clashing, striped banner bearing the name "Sarah McLachlan" is the first feature on this page that contains little more than a large chunk of text with numerous links. Considering the amount of information available, we're being too harsh. On a brighter note, the Webmaster offers some unique and interesting content. Besides the biography and lyrics pages, this site contains concert logs, musical chords available via ftp, critics' reviews of the artist and more. If you come here for the content, you won't be disappointed.



Webmaster: Patrick Martin

★★★★

PEACHES & HERB HOME PAGE

http://www.onlinetalent.com/Peaches_homepage.html

From the musical duo that debuted in the late '60s and "Reunited" in the late '70s, giving us, "Shake Your Groove Thing," this Web site is a chip off the Online Talent home page, but decidedly the best source we could find of the pair. The site is mostly textual, with the exception of an album cover photo, and contains a biography and the Peaches & Herb "Hitlist," a running list of Peaches & Herb music chart achievements. One question, however...just to be clear on pronunciation, was "Herb" a man or a spice?

Webmaster: agent@onlinetalent.com

★★★

PEEPS REPUBLIC

http://www.peeps.com/

Peeps Republic is a large, commercial site dedicated to the R&B, Hip Hop and Rap music industry. Random features such as an online "gallery" of art and links to related sites can be found here, but the real gem is the news section and the featured musicians' home pages. The news page is updated regularly, highlighting new album releases, concerts and tours, industry gossip, projects and activities in the music industry. The news section includes sound samples. Nice layout with lots of graphics.

Webmaster: bomb@peeps.com

★★★★★

THIS DAY IN ROCK AND ROLL HISTORY

http://www.arrowfm.com/cgi/history.pl

Everyday, this site serves up a slice of rock and roll history; a timeline of what happened in the rock music world, years ago, to the month and day you check the site. The site is a page of "The Arrow" Classic Rock, 93FM home page, and contains tidbits of information on classic bands such as Santana and The Rolling Stones. Bookmark this site and check it daily so you can continually stun your friends with information such as, "June 11, 1996. Frank Beard, the drummer for ZZ Top was born on this day in 1949." Watch them marvel. The site also has a search engine so you can find specific information and a particular band or musician. Textual.

Webmaster: tedwards@cbs.com

★★★★

DAN KEGEL'S ISDN PAGE

http://www.alumni.caltech.edu/~dank/isdn/

This site functions as a news service and virtual library for ISDN information on the Web and is updated regularly. ISDN facts and articles from rate increases to hardware developments and corporate buyouts can be found here in addition to numerous features explaining ISDN, online databases for ISDN information, links to related articles, listings of types of hardware and software and ISDN service providers. This site stands on its own as a textual, but thorough ISDN resource, complete with a humor page and ftp document sources.

Webmaster: Dan Kegel

★★★★★

DOCUMENT CONVERSION RESOURCE CENTER

http://www.webcom.com/imt/

Billed as "The definitive Web site for information on: scanning, CAD conversions, GIS databases & map conversions and document management systems," this home page belongs to Information Management Technologies, Inc., and focuses first and foremost on selling you conversion and scanning services. However, the resource center will educate you while you shop, hence earning this review. The amount of information is limited, but if you would like to have a better basic understanding of terms such as "automatic vectorization" and "microform scanning," brief explanations are available. Links to related Web sites and retailers are featured here also. Beware the chunky, overwhelming images.

Webmasters: David B. & Scott C. Carter

★★★

MANAGEMENT RECRUITERS INC., HOME PAGE

http://www.mrinet.com/

Jobs. Jobs. Jobs. We would like our readers to stay employed so they can continue to buy this publication. The Management Recruiters Inc. employment agency seeks to place techno-savvy individuals in computer and technology-related careers. The site is mostly textual, with links to resume help, networking and interviewing advice and suggestions to help you recognize your skills and employment potential. A directory of offices nationwide, a form for submitting your resume and a database of jobs available in the tech industry are key features here.

MRInet Management Recruiters International,

Webmaster: webmaster@mrinet.com

★★★★

PUBLISH RGB

http://www.publish.com/

Publish RGB is a monthly online and print publication dedicated to electronic design that claims to be the electronic publishing authority that's truly recognized as the leader in the industry. Design hardware and software reviews, product features, a news section, an international report, shareware resources and design technique articles are some of the sections and features you can find at this site. A database search engine and a site map will help you quickly find specific information in the archived articles sections of current and past issues. If you prefer paper, you can subscribe online.

Publish rgb

Webmaster: webmaster@rgb.publish.com

★★★★★

IRC FAQ

http://kaktus.kemi.aau.dk/irc-faq.html

From what we can tell, this site hasn't been updated in a very long time. However, the Declaration of Independence hasn't been updated either, and supposedly people still read it. This site contains mounds of information that will show you the ins and outs of Internet Relay Chat (IRC). Anonymous ftp sites are included. Many questions, from newbie dilemmas to more difficult technical issues are addressed here, such as "What do I do if someone is using my nickname?" and "What if somebody tells me to type something cryptic?" The site is mostly textual with links to outside sources.

Webmaster: hrose@kei.com

★★★

LIVE·LIVE·LIVE

The internet's premiere adult playground. Watch LIVE strip shows. Interact with TOP adult stars in our erotic LIVE Fantasy Booths. Access first-run or fetish films, interactive photo features, magazines, chat rooms, the Net's largest adult mega mall & much more.

C·L·U·B·L·O·V·E

ADULT PLAYGROUND

The interactive passion playground that's always open...for ADULTS ONLY!

http://www.adultplayground.com/iu

THE BASEMENT MAGAZINE

http://styx.ios.com/~dizzyman/

Interested in the underground ourselves, we were naturally drawn to *The Basement Magazine*, the Web companion to the monthly paper publication covering alternative music, contemporary technology issues, poetry, literature and subculture. *Basement* features are well-written and presented with interesting angles. The music review section rates each selection as one star for "Da floor" to five stars for "Da Bomb." As with most basements, you won't be visually stunned here; it's mostly textual. However, you will be highly entertained.

Webmaster: dizzyman@styx.ios.com

★★★★★

THE BASTARD OPERATOR FROM HELL

http://www.fn.net/~thrasher/BOFH/

This humorous zine is a compilation of stories written by SimonT, from the perspective of an electronic operator attempting to solve the world's technology problems. The catch is that the "solutions" offered from the Bastard Operator are often tricks, such as deleting the hard drive or destroying files to gain revenge on techno-incompetents. The dialog is well-written and quite believable to anyone who's ever been on either side of a tech-support call. The background is a fright. However, the quality of the writing compensates.

Webmaster: thrasher@fn.net

★★★★

BUNNYHOP

http://www.bunnyhop.com

Bunnyhop is a quarterly collection of features that are either utterly absurd and humorous or completely practical. The Web site is a companion to the paper publication, whose creators have backgrounds in art and design. Interviews, reviews, articles and stories from each issue are listed on the Web site, however only a select few can be read online. These are no dumb bunnies. They want you to buy their publication. If titles such as "Are Skinny White Women Overrated?" and "The Last Hippie on the Peninsula" sound like something you'd enjoy, check this zine out.

Webmaster: bunnyhop@slip.net

★★★★★

COELACANTH

http://members.gnn.com/xerickson/zine.htm

A collective of poetry, narrative works and "voyeuristic" pieces such as e-mail messages and journal entries make up this zine entitled *Coelacanth*, after a prehistoric fish. The purpose of the zine, which is updated at random intervals, is "to challenge the reader with writing that defies convention." The journal writings are best described by the Webmaster: "I've always had trouble keeping one, since doing all that writing for no one to see but myself seemed, well, like the acts young boys perform to copies of *Penthouse*." These entries, thank heavens, are a bit more lucid than the features you might find in *Penthouse*.

Webmaster: xerickson@gnn.com

★★★

THE GOURMET CONNECTION E-ZINE

http://www.norwich.net/~gourmet/link1.htm

With a diet of Coke and Cheetos, it's not likely we'd be able to appropriately review a gourmet food zine. But if your diet is better than ours, this monthly online zine has a rich blend of recipes, food features and health and fitness articles dedicated to gourmet cooking and living. The current issue can be accessed through links on the home page and a weekly e-mail newsletter is accessible to you if you fill out and return the mail form. The big catch is that you must "join" the gourmet connection by dishing out all kinds of personal information, probably to be used for marketing. But would we jump through hoops to learn how to make a really juicy steak? You betcha.

Webmaster: CAPCO Marketing

★★★★

INDY MAGAZINE

http://www.indyworld.com/

indy Magazine is a bi-monthly paper publication dedicated to alternative, independent and self-published comic books and "comix." The Web version of this zine tells you where you can find *indy* nationwide, but it doesn't let you read entire issues online. A select article from each issue is featured online to whet your appetite. Back issues are listed by cover and contents so you can determine what you want to purchase before you call the distributor. The site includes images of covers, past and present.

Webmaster: jrm@grove.ufl.edu

★★★

LA RAFALE!

http://www.imaginet.fr/rafale/

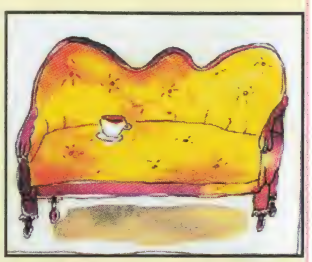
En francais? This zine is a beautiful example of style and substance. And it's French. If you are not French and don't speak the language, you can browse the translated English version. *La Rafale!* is billed as "the magazine for the global village idiot" and is a combination of dark humor blended with keen insight into contemporary issues, including politics, culture, entertainment and technology. The layout is readable and easy to navigate and the content is well-written. You won't find images warring with one another or visual clutter here. The minimalist appearance is very appealing. Vive *La Rafale!*

Webmaster: La Rafale

★★★★★

LITERAL LATTE

http://www.literal-latte.com/



New York City-based *Literal Latte* is a bi-monthly journal dedicated to "Prose, poetry and art." Well-known contemporary writers such as Harlan Ellison, Gloria Steinem, Frank Stella and many others are featured regularly. The prose will draw you in, so make sure you have plenty of spare time to devour this zine from beginning to end. Each issue has a small number of features, but the quality is top-notch. This zine is mostly textual and also available in print. *Literal Latte* is proof that more is not always better.

Webmaster: litlatte@literal-latte.com

★★★★★

MALFEASANCE SEASON

http://www.halcyon.com/rev/malfeasance.html

A zine that lives by the clock. The Webmaster of *Malfeasance Season* may publish this zine sporadically, however, when he does crank one out, he writes the entire zine in 30 minutes. He wants his zine to be the result of "a single burst of activity." For the most part, this zine is a series of reflective writings and poetry that do make you think. The Webmaster has the ability to take stream of consciousness thoughts that are normally very random and hard-to-follow and turn them into an interesting monologue. The site does not contain images or any other adornments, which means you can get in and out in very little time. It's definitely worth a quick read.

Webmaster: John "Rev" Tynes

★★★★

MOTEL MAGAZINE

http://www.cris.com/~Dactyl/motel.shtml

Bi-monthly *Motel Magazine* claims to be "more fun than porn." It seemed unlikely, so we checked it out for ourselves. The result? It's close. The bare-bones staff of this e-zine don't claim to be a group of starving artists and idealists. They state very clearly that they're in it for the money. Yet they never tell you how they plan on getting it. Roughly two features make up each issue, from articles such as, "You too can learn to set your VCR clock" and "The Travels of Chris and Margaret," a diary of the editor and the publisher's 4000-mile trip to their new home. The art gallery section is remarkably scant, but the features are well worth reading. Don't miss the "Amazing Spinning Nixon Head;" now *that's* better than porn.

Webmaster: Dactyl@cris.com

★★★★★

MY SCREWS AREN'T LOOSE, I'M JUST WIRED A BIT DIFFERENT

http://www.rru.com/~meo/WiredDiff/

This "collection of strangeness," by Miles O' Neal, is a massive tome of short stories and long rants. The Webmaster explains his writings best by saying, "These writings range from the cream of the crop to the dregs. Some are serious, some are insane, some are pretentious, and three have been arrested in various states as toxic waste. Some are in horrid taste." Which are horrid and which are worth reading? You'll have to find out through trial and error. His table of contents will lead you to a title that sounds most intriguing, or you can just browse each issue individually, past and present.

Webmaster: Miles O' Neal

★★★

NWHQ

http://www.knosso.com/NWHQ/

"This is *NWHQ*, a Web-journal of hypertexted literature and art, that is constructed somewhat like a labyrinth wherein works grow over time." *NWHQ* is a collective effort from artists, designers and writers who build stories, poems and images that blend text and object art. The individual pieces displayed here are a sophisticated presentation of the written word dressed up in graphic design. The home page contains an image surrounded by repeating hypertext rows and columns of the word "here." You may select any of the linked words to view the connected piece. Further description here would be wasteful. The only way to truly appreciate this site is to visit it yourself.

Webmaster: nwhq@wimsey.com

★★★★★

OUT OF ORDER

http://www.nemeton.com/ooo/

We're not sure if "Out of Order" refers to this monthly dance music zine or the acid-art wallpaper that makes the site so difficult to read. If you can look beyond the trippy pattern, you'll find the option to read *Out of Order* online or to download it to read later. If you choose to read the zine online, you will not escape the wallpaper. It will be with you through the rest of your journey. Despite the annoying visuals, this zine is a great source for dance music reviews, reports from the club scene, interviews and industry scoops. The lesson here is a good one: you must look beyond the exterior to find the good stuff inside...or don't judge a book by its cover. Or something.

Webmaster: ooo@vick.demon.co.uk

★★★

PIXELFREAK

http://www.pixelfreak.com/

This site is a resource for computer graphics and animation news, reviews and features and resources you can actually find through links on the site. Articles are updated on the 15th of each month and contain useful information for graphic designers and anyone interested in computer art. Another useful feature here is the "Jobs" section. After all, once you have all of this knowledge, you've got to do something with it. The site uses frames, but effectively. The design and layout is nothing less than one would expect from a graphic design group.

Webmaster: webmaster@pixelfreak.com

★★★★★

QUIET INSANITY

http://sitcom.vassar.edu/~mahanlon/Quiet_Insanity.html

Quiet Insanity is no collective effort. This zine is a one-man show, even if the Webmaster has many different players in his head. This weekly newsletter is a consortium of random, freely-associating thoughts and carefully written, organized text. Where the two converge or separate is unclear. Follow the links to the current issue or browse past issues for the author's thoughts on everything, in no particular order. Well-written.

Webmaster: mahanlon@vaxsar.vassar.edu

★★★★

RADIO & RECORDS (R&R) ONLINE

http://www.rronline.com/

For 20 years, the print version of *R&R* has been serving the record and music industry with charts, record sales tracking and music biz information and is now bringing the same information to the Web. You'll find weekly news updates, Arbitron and Accuratings, record charts, radio station play lists and even industry job opportunities. The site carries a wealth of information and is nicely designed and functional.

Webmaster: mailroom@rronline.com

★★★★★

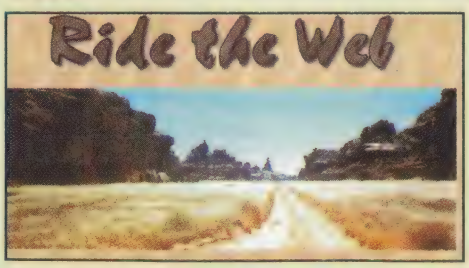
RIDE THE WEB

http://www.cyberg8t.com/ridedweb/

Ride the Web is a monthly zine dedicated to bicycle tours and vacations. Readers may submit stories of their own excursions no matter how long or short the trip. This site is not only about reflections on bicycle trips, however. Links to information about organized tours, cycling groups and people searching for biking adventures nationwide can be found here as well. Some images are included with individual features. The site is well-designed and easy to jump into and navigate around.

Webmaster: Bill Tackett

★★★★



SEIDMAN'S ONLINE INSIDER

http://www.clark.net/pub/robert/

Oh great. Another weekly newsletter to download. You roll your eyes, but this one is useful. *Seidman's Online Insider* offers up-to-date news information regarding technology, primarily about the Internet and online services. The news features are informative articles that don't just state the facts, but also provide the bigger industry picture. The Webmaster works in the technology industry, but presents this information on his own, unaffiliated with any organization or corporate entity. End-of-the week figures on technology stocks are listed—which, being so untimely, may not be useful to traders, but certainly serves as the one-stop for those just interested in following the market. You can view the newsletter online or arrange to have it sent free through e-mail to get an effortless fix on the news.

Webmaster: Robert Seidman

★★★★

STONE WORSHIP DESIGN

http://www.ism.net/~swd/index.html

The *Stone Worship Design* e-zine is an artist collective of writers, designers, musicians and other creative people and also the self-proclaimed "Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace." The purpose of the zine is stated by the group as such: "Our goals are twofold: first, to contribute real content to the World Wide Web; and second, to create a marketplace where techno-savvy and like-minded artists and artisans can showcase their work." The features, comprised of literature, poetry and various artistic endeavors, are interesting and discreetly presented, keeping a strong, balanced textual and visual presence consistent throughout. The graphics are truly excellent.

Webmaster: swd@optim.ism.net

★★★★★

TV GUIDE ONLINE

http://www.iguide.com/tv/

The TV Guide site, *iguide*, is so interesting that it defeats its purpose: getting you to watch TV. The site is updated weekly, just like the print version, except that you can participate in chat sessions and take advantage of bulletin boards and special online-only features you won't find in the paper counterpart. The entire print version, with show listings and air-times, is available here as well. You select the region you live in to display a time and date grid. Once you select a time, you'll receive a complete listing of shows and their descriptions. Considering the amount of information this site contains, it's amazingly well-organized and designed.

Webmaster: TV Guide

★★★★★

WELLNESS NEWSLETTER

http://www.wellmedia.com/news.html

The *Wellness Newsletter* is a great source for information about herbal medicine, meditation, natural antidotes and many preventative health-related issues. You can read the newsletter online or receive it via e-mail to read in the bathtub with a cup of chamomile tea. The newsletter is published weekly, but what's gone is not forgotten. Back issues are available for online reading. A nice feature here is the option to personalize your e-mailed newsletter if you're interested in specific health-related topics and do not want to receive the entire publication each week. Text heavy.

Webmaster: Wellness Newsletter

★★★★

APPLICATION TO LIVE IN ARKANSAS

http://www.wfu.edu/~dejontm5/humor/redneck2.txt

Who knew you would have to reveal so much about yourself to be allowed to live in Arkansas? This single-page form is not your standard income/social security number request. You are asked to give your CB handle, daddy's name (If unknown, affix list of 3 suspects), make of pick-up, number of kitchen appliances on front porch, last Elvis sighting and more. In addition to all of this, you are asked what emblems are on your cap (CAT, John Deere or Teamsters Local) and what organizations you are a member of, such as VFW, NRA, KKK and the 700 Club. This site is textual, and if you haven't figured it out by now, a joke.

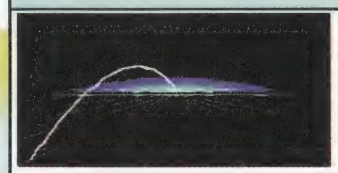
Webmaster: Todd De Jong

★★★

BACKYARD BALLISTICS

http://www.csn.net/~bsimon/backyard.html

"Backyard Ballistics" is a Web site dedicated to "Home-brew devices for propelling weird objects through the air." The standard disclaimer warns you to use what you learn here at your own risk, with the added suggestion that, "If you do get hurt, tough $#I+! Don't go whining to a lawyer because of your own lack of personal responsibility and common sense." The Webmaster furnishes links to information about spud guns, pumpkin chunkin' and as many other backyard weapon/target activities you can imagine. When you're finished trying these, check out kitchen ballistics, a real winner for apartment dwellers. Textual.



Backyard Ballistics

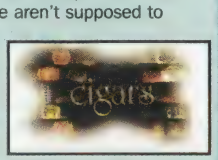
Webmaster: bsimon@qualmach.com

★★★★

CIGARS AFTER HOURS

http://www.hymco.com/cigars.html

"I like hearing about good cigars from Honduras, Dominican Republic and Cuba. I know we aren't supposed to trade with Cuba, but you can get them if you know where to look." This site is a short list of cigar reviews from the Webmaster. He gives tips on what to try, where to order and how to locate hard-to-find (also known as illegal) smokes. Never mind the political rant he has included, or that bit about the embargo and Castro. Just appreciate the Webmaster's passion. "Frankly speaking, I like smoking my cigar at home better 'cause I can't get myself out of the chair after a Cuban and a couple glasses of Scotch." Images and text.



Webmaster: mike_f@hymco.com

★★★★

CONFESS YOUR SINS HERE

http://www.sevarez.com/confess/

Hanging out at this site is therapeutic. It's really very simple. All it contains is a dialogue box and a couple of crosses. You enter your sin in the box and send it away. Within a few seconds, you'll receive your response, "You are forgiven, go in peace." You won't have to do anything else. It's as easy as that. If you're trusting, or very limited in your sins, you can enter them all at once and receive one message of forgiveness. If you're not convinced that all your sins could be forgiven and wrapped up with one "go in peace" message, or in fact have numerous sins to list, you can select to submit them individually.

Webmaster: SevArez Development

★★★

COW ART

http://cfara.ucsd.edu/nick/cows.html

ASCII art is no stranger to the Web. This home page is a tribute to cows in many different forms and likenesses. As funny as they are, these cow images are not originals. They're cited as being reproduced from a Usenet group. From "Cow Skiing Black Diamond in Aspen" to "Boris Karlov's Cow," the designs are either very creative and thoughtfully executed or totally obtuse and just not very funny.

Webmaster: Nick Fitch

★★★

CREATE YOUR OWN STAR TREK PLOT

http://www.prairienet.org/~drthiel/trek.html

Like science-fiction MadLibs, this site allows you to tailor your own *Star Trek*, *Voyager* or *Deep Space Nine* episode by selecting random names and phrases in the different fields supplied. The Webmaster promises "billions" of unique entries, but we only had time to create a few. Here's an example: "Data, while repairing a sensor array, is trapped with a Betazoid empath until Troi transforms Data's neural net into a logical implausibility, thereby reaffirming that 24th Century values are an accident waiting to happen." Light years of fun. Textual.

Webmaster: drthiel@uiuc.edu

★★★★

JOE'S??? AMAZING RELATIONSHIP PROBLEM SOLVER

http://studsys.mscs.mu.edu/~carpent1/probsolv/rltprob0.html

If only it were this simple. Joe has given us a series of easy questions to help determine how to cope with our relationships with others. Remarkably, we found the most frequently occurring answer to be, "Dump 'em before it's too late." This explained the plethora of e-mail the Webmaster displays, in which people have questioned the integrity of Joe's responses. Joe does, however, offer a disclaimer on his site, stating that, "Any advice should be taken with a MAJOR grain of salt." Our theory is that if you're trying to work out your relationship problems online, your problem is fairly obvious.

Webmaster: Joe 'LungFish'??? Carpenter

★★★★★

PEOPLE EATING TASTY ANIMALS (PETA)

http://www.mtd.com/tasty/

What's the Web without a healthy dose of controversy? Billed as, "A resource for those who enjoy eating meat, wearing fur and leather, hunting and the fruits of scientific research," this site is a parody of the organization PeTA, known as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and has caused a current of dispute over the registered, but suspended, domain name "peta.org," as held by this Webmaster. The site contains links to fishing, hunting, taxidermy and animal research sites, as well as links to sites publicizing the details of the case against the original PETA organization. The site is well-designed and contains a wealth of information. Will we rate it? We've got enough problems!

Webmaster: Michael Doughney (send your letters to him, not us)

No Rating *(For the full story behind this site read "The Beef over PeTA" on p. 23)*

SEDUCTION

http://www.cs.ucsb.edu/~lsd/Seduction.html

Viva seduction! This site is a textual guide to seduction and international style. Before you pack your passport and a bottle of Love Potion No. 9, read these tips carefully. You'll learn important distinctions about the process of seduction in various countries: in France and Italy, people seduce one another, while in Brazil, they just have sex. You don't have to travel abroad to test these theories, however. Tips for sexual survival in the United States are also included: "People who live in Connecticut and Upstate New York who commute to Manhattan everyday seduce each other on the train home." Samples of seductive dialogue included.

Webmaster: Paul Darwen

★★★★

SHAKEN NOT STIRRED

http://www.axionet.com/key/Martinis.html

"Remember, if you spill it, you've probably had too many." Shaken Not Stirred is a tribute to the Martini. This well-designed, stylish site is entertaining and thorough, and contains the history of this drink, recipes as contributed by drinkers worldwide, Martini quotes, an FAQ and our personal favorite, a huge list of the "best" Martini lounges around the world as reviewed by aficionados. Don't pass up the opportunity to vote for your favorite lounge or to take the shaken or stirred challenge. As the site says, "A Martini is like a woman's breast. One ain't enough and three is too many."

Webmasters: A. Miller, J. Brown

★★★★★

THE WORLD OF CURIOUS GEORGE

http://www.hmco.com/hmco/trade/hmi/george/index.html

The Curious George site is not an adventure. It's an advertising venture in monkeys clothing. True, you can play, "Help George get the hats back to their owners," a simple interactive game, but the real focus here is for you to order the CD-ROM. After playing the silly interactive game, you might be inclined to race quickly past the merchandising section back to the index in search of something to satisfy your monkey-like curiosity and short attention span. Sadly, you won't find it. Even the FAQ addresses the CD-ROM product only. We expected, at least, to find out Curious George's favorite band.

Webmaster: Houghton Mifflin Interactive

★★★

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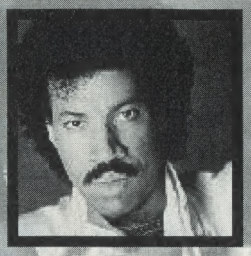
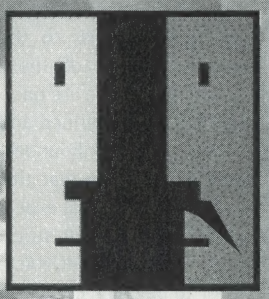
What's New! | What's Cool! | Upgrades | Net Search | Net Directory | Newsgroups | Handbook



LIVE ON THE INTERNET

Enhanced SayU-SayMe



CU-SeeMe™

Enhanced **SayU-SayMe** is White Spruce Technology's remarkable desktop video conferencing software that allows for real-time person-to-person conferencing with celebrity musician Lionel Richie. The distinguished artist, in cooperation with Cornell University and White Spruce, has agreed to have a Connectix QuickCam strapped to his forehead until August '97 so that Internet users from around the world can see what he's seeing "All Night Long."

The **SayU-SayMe** project began in 1992 as an experiment in video conferencing using compression algorithms and video frame-differencing. Unlike MDONet Live (MenuDONet Live) **SayU-SayMe** uses a "reflector" technology, a UNIX-based application, that allows up to eight users to simultaneously connect to Lionel's headset and view the "reflected" video and audio data that's he's transmitting 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Says John McNamitt, a Cornell **SayU-SayMe** engineer, "We couldn't think of any better starting point than the head of the man who brought the world "Penny Lover." Besides, Lionel has always been on the cutting edge of technology."

While **SayU-SayMe** technology is a free service available to all users of the Internet, White Spruce Technology asks that you please observe the following practices when connecting to Lionel's headset:

I'll take one last question. Yes, Lionel, go ahead.

Hey Mac, you alright? Buddy? Jeez, I was turning off 22nd when wham...ya came outta nowhere.

Lionel dude, you're killin' me! Tell me that one about the poodle again.

DON'T pester Lionel with song requests or solicitations for work.

DON'T connect to **SayU-SayMe** at a speed over 100kbps. Doing so causes an unexplainable shock to be emitted by the camera. Lionel reports that the shocks are powerful and have induced memory loss. Please use the default settings.

DON'T access the audio utilities after 10 p.m. EST. Please refrain from speaking, whispering, chatting or screaming "TRAIN" when Lionel is sleeping.

DON'T interrupt conversations already in progress. While Lionel is more than willing to speak with you, he does maintain a life outside of **SayU-SayMe**. In the past, unannounced chat has disrupted important rehearsals, recordings and negotiations with music labels. Lionel knows you are there. (A doorbell tone rings each time a new user connects to his headset!) Wait until he extends the invitation, "Hello, is it me you're looking for?" Then commence with discussion.

The Fine Art of Pranking

by Rev. Ivan Stang

The art of the prank call can be noble or base. Its adherents are malicious malingerers, and certainly, no right thinking person could condone their behavior. On the other hand, it is important that those of us who are telephone sociologists retain access to the tape recordings of these dastardly acts. We are qualified but few, a refined and rarefied circle, truly underground. All agree that this art form/sociological experiment should be left strictly to us PROFESSIONALS, never to be commercialized and thrust into the wrong hands. It's downright criminal to encourage amateurs and civilians, and SORRY PROOF of that truism can be found on the Web.

I searched and browsed the whole of the Web for anyone peddling prank call tapes, to see how this essentially illegal art form was being presented. What I found was horrifying. The Last Fine Art is being corrupted more than ever before. Prank calls are being made JUST FOR selling on the Web, and they're VERY VERY BAD. A few folks are trading call tapes, a few companies sell them; but mostly I found individuals performing their own prank calls, converting the recordings to sound files, and displaying samples on the Web while advertising their abysmal tapes. Few indeed are worthy of the Nameless Mission.

"Is Joe in?" "He's out with Mandy." "Are they having intercourse?" "No... they're at the coffee shop." "Okay. Bye."

They actually BRAG about this sort of call, as if they had done something ADMIRABLE!

"Good" prank calls require a rare combination of skill, humor and luck. The best have an almost operatic feel. The greatest ones feature a feisty or else pitifully clueless victim, who has been consistently harassed for YEARS. Another time-worn approach involves calling many different individuals, but using similar routines on each one.

Any dweeb can cuss at a randomly selected innocent. But only a pro can initiate an ongoing and memorably surreal dialog. The victims of the best callers go to their graves never even knowing they were pranked at all. The delicate art of keeping the "mark" from hanging up as long as possible, and seeing JUST HOW FAR they can be pushed is a skill critical to a good pranker. It's about developing a THEME and CRESCENDO... this has been forgone in favor of a coarse, barbaric frat-boy inanity. Where once there was an art, now we have a MARKET, and it's flooded with idiots and boors whose idea of a big laugh is to tape themselves cursing at little old ladies.

It's tragic that The Jerky Boys made a movie and became popular just when the Web had a great growth in popularity. They opened Pandora's payphone for every idiot who wants to sell bad tapes. Their fans think that if The Jerky Boys can do it, then any brainless fool can perpetrate a few infernally dumb one-line phone pranks, put 'em on the Web, and sell it. But there's a difference. The Jerky Boys, admittedly, had some originality, wit and style. They lack the sense of intuitive surrealism of their many predecessors, but they are accessible to the common

lout, which. inadvertently, inspired hundreds of drunken college jocks to do lame imitations for profit or some sick form of status. People shouldn't make prank calls because they saw it done on MTV; only those DRIVEN to this craft should indulge in it.

TWO BLESSED EXCEPTIONS

Goy Division Recordings & Online Disinformation Service at **http://www.tezcat.com/~kritikal/index.html** (or P.O. Box 650239, Austin, TX 78765-0239): FINALLY A DECENT PRANK CALLS SITE!!! Excellent calls to Christian radio stations, Web-audible, full-length in TrueSpeech, and sold on CD. It contains a fine essay on pranking talk radio.

Phone Losers of America at **http://www.peak.org/~bueno/reviews.html**: an online Phone Phreaks magazine, also very well done, with attitude squirting from its pores. Look for the prank call links and reviews.

The rest of the Web sites are PROOF that democracy is flawed, that not every jock with a beer, a phone and a Jerky Boys CD should be allowed freedom of speech, much less their own Web sites. With few exceptions, the providers of Prank Call Web are nothing but the lowest groveling Jerky Boys wanna-be buffoons. Their sites are uniformly cursed by ill-chosen and excruciatingly slow downloads (often for a senseless two-second clip). To give you an idea of the quality control involved, all of these Web sites spell the word "hilarious" differently.

You know something has turned into a trend when the practitioners spend half their time calling each other posers. The truth is they're ALL posers!

To read my no-holds-barred reviews of popular Web pranking sites, visit **http://www.underground-online.com.**

—TAKING MIRSKY'S OLD ROOST, IS OUR NEW "AT LARGE" COLUMNIST, THE REV. IVAN STANG, THE LEADER OF THE CHRUCH OF THE SUBGENIUS. VISIT THE CHURCH ONLINE AT **http://sunsite.unc.edu/subgenius** AND OH YEAH, PRAISE BOB.

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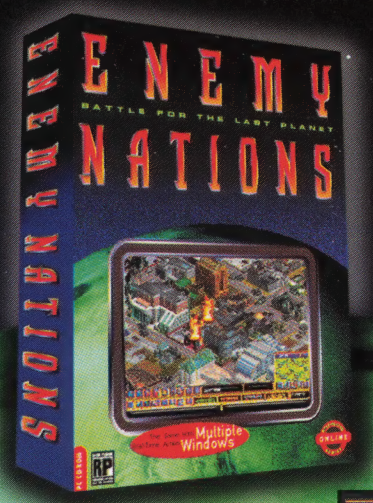

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